

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Venezuela bosses mobilize to
topple Chávez government

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Australian government brutalizes immigrants

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Chanting “Free the refugees!” and “Open the borders! Close the detention camps!” more than 200 mainly youthful protesters gathered at the newly fortified barriers outside Villawood Detention Centre in Sydney January 27. The rally was in support of a 15-day hunger strike and other protests by hundreds of detainees behind the razor wire of Canberra’s often remote refugee camps. Similar actions took place in other cities and towns across the country.

The refugees’ actions erupted in resistance to the brutal Australian government policy, the most extreme in the world, of mandatory detention of all asylum-seekers who land without papers. The 582 children in detention include 53 unaccompanied minors. One-fifth of adult detainees are women, with or without their families. Some children born in detention have never seen the world outside the razor wire.

Despite Canberra’s bluster that it has not deviated at all from its hard line, as we go to press on January 30 it appears the government has made some concessions to the protesters, leading them to suspend their hunger strike. This includes restarting the processing of Afghan and other visas, releasing some children, and possibly moving to phase out the worst detention center at Woomera.

The hunger strike, along with other protest actions by hundreds of men, women, and children seeking asylum in Australia, began January 15 in Woomera, located in the baking-hot South-Australian desert. Continual protests have occurred at the

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Longshoremen, students back fired garment worker’s fight

BY NAOMI CRAINE

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Michael Italie spent two days in the Carolinas building support for the fight against his political firing by Goodwill Industries in Miami. He spoke with dockworkers in South Carolina, won backing from a longshore union leader, and spoke with students here, gaining new support in a nationwide fight to be reinstated to his job as a garment worker.

More than 30 people attended a meeting at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte (UNCC) January 23 to learn about Italie’s fight to defend workers’ rights. Joining him on the platform was Ahmad Daniels, the former director of minority affairs in Mecklenburg County. Daniels was forced to resign from that post last October, after he wrote a letter to a local paper stating that the fight against racism didn’t end on September 11.

Several people traveled to the meeting from Greensboro, over an hour away, including four young people who heard about the meeting at a Palestinian rights protest a week earlier.

Virginia Jordan of the UNCC Campus Greens welcomed people to the event and introduced Italie, noting the importance of

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Bipartisan ‘two-front war’ aimed at working people

U.S. assault at ‘home and abroad’ is meeting resistance

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

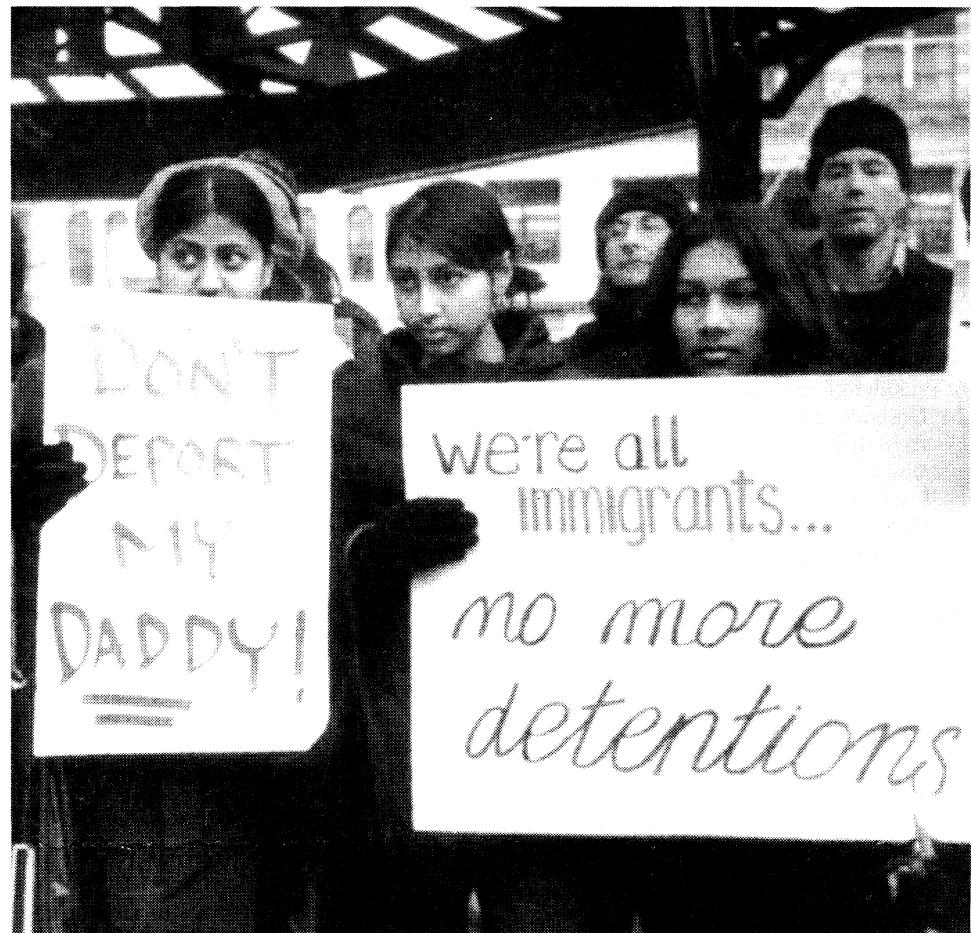
“This is a two-front war,” U.S. president George Bush declared to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. “Overseas we’re fighting and at home we’re fighting.” Speaking to 300 mayors at the January 24 meeting, Bush laid out in no uncertain terms the course U.S. imperialism seeks to follow against working people at home and abroad.

Included in the steps the U.S. rulers would like to take are further militarization of the country, expanded spying operations at home, and harsher measures against immigrants.

In a prelude to his State of the Union address, itself cast in a war atmosphere, the president announced proposals to double the budget for “homeland defense” to \$38 billion and add \$48 billion to the country’s military budget. The president also proposed to boost spending for “border security” to \$11 billion, including a 29 percent increase for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Bush used the meetings to outline the financial allocations for Washington’s assault on workers at home and abroad.

Central to the war at home, Bush said, are measures targeting immigrants. High on the list are those who have overstayed their visas. “The INS estimates that 40 percent of the people who are here illegally have overstayed their visa,” he said. “One of the things we want to make sure of is we find the 40 percent to make sure they’re not part of some al Qaeda network that wants to hit the United States. And so we’re looking, we’re listening, and we’re following every

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New York City Independent Media Center/John Tarleton
Members of Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM) hold rally January 21 on Martin Luther King Day holiday at Union Square in Manhattan before leaving on bus to protest detention of Arab and South Asian immigrants at Hudson and Passaic County jails in New Jersey. The New Jersey actions drew some 300 people.

‘Jail killer cops,’ demands Miami action

BY LARRY TUCKER AND MARY ANN SCHMIDT

MIAMI—Two hundred people rallied here January 26 as part of ongoing protests to demand the prosecution of the cop who shot and killed Black youth Eddie Macklin during the Martin Luther King Day march. During the King Day activity January 21 a cop jumped on the car Macklin was driving and shot him dead through the front window.

Fifteen hours prior to the action, Miami Dade police had also unloaded their guns,

shooting 23-year-old Orrett Kerr in Liberty City, a few blocks away from where Macklin was gunned down. Two days later police killed a homeless man with a record of mental illness after shooting him with a non-lethal Taser stun gun in a hotel lobby.

Police say they shot Kerr in the back during a scuffle, claiming he fired a gun at an officer, grazing his face with a bullet. Kerr is in stable condition at a local hospital, while Officer Roderick Passmore, who is also Black, is on administrative leave with pay.

Eyewitnesses insist Kerr had no gun. It will be weeks before test results of the gunpowder from the officers face will be returned.

These two shootings occurred five months after a recent investigation of Miami police led to 13 indictments by a federal grand jury on charges of planting guns, lying, and obstructing justice.

Linda Faye, who lives across the street from the scene of the incident, told the *Miami Herald*, “This has got to stop. Too much

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SWP leadership: join with young socialists and proletarian fighters to build the communist movement

BY GREG McCARTAN AND MAURICE WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—“Today there are proletarian and vanguard leaders in countries all over the world,” said Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes at a meeting here of 130 people on January 26. “We need to let them know that they are communists but they just don’t know it yet. Only by knowing it, and banding together with others in a proletarian party, can we organize to fight and win.”

This world-historic fact, and the question of what steps to take to more effectively organize the members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists, together with proletarian fighters attracted to socialism, were the central themes of the event held at

the Pathfinder Building.

Featured at the front of the meeting, and on sale for the first time, was *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution* in both English and Spanish. The new book by Cuban revolu-

tionary leader Víctor Dreke was edited by Mary-Alice Waters, who was one of the keynote speakers at the event.

The meeting took place in the midst of two days’ volunteer labor by nearly 90

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Argentine regime pressed to abide by imperialist ‘rules’

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Pressured by imperialist governments to present a “sustainable” economic program, that is, one that protects the interests of wealthy foreign investors, the Argentine government sent Foreign Minister Carlos Ruckauf to Washington January 28–29 to assure U.S. officials that it will abide by “the rules of the game.”

The administration of President Eduardo Duhalde is seeking new loans to resume interest payments on its existing foreign debt of \$141 billion. The government suspended payments in late December after defaulting on the debt.

At the same time, the government is feeling the heat at home from daily demonstrations by working people and others devastated by the economic collapse. In late January thousands of unemployed workers took to the streets of Buenos Aires, while middle-class protesters held pot-banging actions known as *cacerolazos*.

Duhalde was appointed by Argentina’s congress January 1 after a nationwide eruption of mass protests forced the resignation of President Fernando de la Rúa December 20. Duhalde, a leader of the Peronist party, has tried to defuse the protests by posing as a friend of “the people.”

Since World War II Peronism has had overwhelming support among working people. Juan Perón, who was president in 1946–55 and again in 1973–74, promoted the image of a champion of workers who stood up to imperialism, while tying the unions to his Justicialist Party and to the capitalist state. Although the Peronists’ image has been tarnished, especially after a decade of assaults on workers’ jobs, wages, and social rights under the Justicialist administration of Carlos Menem in the 1990s, the labor movement remains that party’s base of support.

One of Duhalde’s first actions was to devalue the peso, which since 1991 had been pegged to the U.S. dollar at a one-to-one exchange rate, an increasingly unsustainable

policy as Argentina’s economy weakened. Two exchange rates were established, one fixed at 1.40 pesos to the dollar for business and trade, and a floating rate for most individuals that has now plunged to 1.8 pesos to the dollar.

The devaluation has led to price hikes for many consumer goods, including a 30 percent increase for all imports, from medicine to food. Everything that was dollar-denominated, from utility bills to car loans and mortgages, has gone up.

The government’s partial freeze on bank withdrawals has particularly squeezed small merchants and professionals. After promising to return deposits in their original form, the government backtracked and announced that those accounts would be redeemable only in devalued pesos because there simply weren’t dollars left.

To lessen the blow to the middle classes, the Duhalde administration has slightly relaxed the bank restrictions, converted dollar debts under \$100,000 into devalued pesos one-to-one, and announced it is considering doing so for loans over \$100,000. It has also promised to compensate banks for the losses.

The new government initially announced a stance of pursuing closer trade ties with European imperialist powers, which Ruckauf called a shift toward “polygamy” away from the policy of abject subordination to U.S. imperialism that Menem had boasted of as “carnal relations” and “automatic alignment.”

In another move to strengthen Argentina’s maneuvering room with imperialism, the government in Buenos Aires has pledged to improve relations with its neighbor in Brazil and promote the regional trade block Mercosur..

Imperialists let Argentina take the blow

After years of U.S. support for pouring billions of dollars in loans to Argentina—which has increasingly chained the nation to imperialist debt bondage, with workers



Contingent from the teachers union in Buenos Aires province march in demonstration of public employees in December to protest rising unemployment and growing social crisis. Devaluation of nation’s currency has sparked price hikes in many consumer goods. Demonstrations have demanded regime keep promise to create 1 million jobs.

and farmers bearing the brunt of the squeeze—the Bush administration in December opposed further credits to bail it out and forestall default. The imperialist ruling families decided to let Argentina take the blow, even at the cost of some banks and companies going under, with the aim of buying up cheaply the bankrupt businesses while minimizing their own losses.

Argentine officials sputtered in protest. In response to criticism from International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials that the dual exchange rate was not viable and to their demands for a “coherent” economic plan, Deputy Economy Minister Jorge Todesca declared, “They should talk less if they don’t have anything interesting to say.”

Imperialist spokespeople quickly cranked up the pressure and reminded the Argentine government of its subordinate place. An article in the February 4 issue of *Fortune* magazine warned that the policies of Buenos Aires “could help drive a region once firmly in the democracy-oriented, laissez-faire camp back toward the old, state-dominated political and economic model” that marked Argentina from World War II until Menem took office in 1989.

An editorial in the British *Financial Times* chastised Duhalde for his “populist gestures” and warned that “he must realize that he cannot offer illusions forever” to the Argentine population.

The 15 European Union finance ministers issued a statement January 22 instructing the Argentine government to “adhere to the principles of a market-based economy and avoid discriminating against foreign direct investors and creditors.” They added, “The financial sector in Argentina should not bear an unreasonable amount of the costs of the devaluation.” The imperialist ministers singled out a proposed bankruptcy law that, according to the *Financial Times*, “would give Argentine companies the upper hand in bankruptcy negotiations and

make it hard for creditors to collect on debts.”

Several U.S.- and European-owned companies and banks have reported big losses from the Argentina crisis. FleetBoston Financial Corp. announced it would take a \$500 million charge. Moody’s Investors Service reported that Telefónica de Argentina and the oil company YPF, both owned by Spanish capitalists, are at risk of defaulting on their bonds.

The Argentine regime quickly beat a retreat. Duhalde toned down his mildly nationalistic rhetoric. Ruckauf was sent to meet with top officials in Washington “to convince the U.S. that the new government will not institute protectionist measures or turn back the clock on the country’s free market reforms,” the *Times* reported.

“Argentina is a country that will comply with the rules of the game,” Ruckauf told the media.

Buenos Aires reportedly seeks at least \$15 billion in IMF loans. Officials of the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank said they would lend about \$1 billion each if the Argentine government’s austerity budget met their approval.

Protests demand jobs, relief from crisis

Meanwhile, the government faces growing anger at home at the intolerable conditions, above all the record unemployment—now officially 20 percent and as high as 60–70 percent in some areas outside the capital.

Some 15,000 working people and others blocked highways and carried out a march January 28 from the depressed outskirts of Buenos Aires to the downtown Plaza de Mayo to demand jobs. The march was sponsored by two organizations that speak for unemployed workers, the Land and Housing Federation (FTV), affiliated to the Argentine Workers Federation (CTA), and the Combative Class-Struggle Current (CCC),

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THE MILITANT

Workers battle cutbacks in Canada

Thousands of health care and public workers, teachers, and students have hit the streets to protest job cuts and other assaults carried out by the provincial government in British Columbia. The ‘Militant’ tells the truth about their fight and explains why working people should back this important labor battle.



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U.S. war deepens instability in Central Asia

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

Washington's aggression in Central Asia, including its Afghan war and establishment of military bases in the region, has heightened instability and conflicts from the Middle East to the Indian subcontinent. Among the signs of this increased volatility are the war threats and military mobilizations by the governments of India and Pakistan, the step-up in the Israeli government's brutality against the Palestinian people, and Iran's alliance with forces in the west of Afghanistan.

With its January 25 test of a new ballistic missile, the Indian government demonstrated that there will be no short-term letup in its military pressure on Pakistan. The missile's 400-mile capacity will place Pakistan's cities within range of India's nuclear warheads.

"Coming at a moment like this, it is indicative of India's resolve to keep the threat to Pakistan going," said the retired director general of India's military operations, Lt. Gen. V.R. Raghavan. The government of Pakistan, which reportedly has similar missile technology, condemned the test as provocative and destabilizing.

India-Pakistan conflict

Since mid-December, India has mobilized some 500,000 troops, and Pakistan some 300,000, along the two countries' common border. In response to New Delhi's demands that the Pakistani regime crack down on Kashmiri fighters or face a war, Islamabad has banned five organizations and detained more than 2,000 people.

The conflict has unfolded as Washington, while maintaining its long-term alliance with the pro-imperialist Pakistani regime, has sought to build closer military and economic relations with New Delhi. The long-standing conflict between Pakistan and India has its roots in the founding of Pakistan in 1947 as a spearhead against the struggle for national unification on the Indian subcontinent. British imperialism, retreating under the blows of a massive anticolonial rebellion, organized to partition the subcontinent, establish a pro-imperialist bulwark in Pakistan, and fan the flames of religious conflicts to divert the revolutionary struggles of working people.

Over past decades the Stalinist regime in China has also helped to arm and support the Pakistani regime as a lever against Moscow, which had close ties with New Delhi. But with the moves by U.S. imperialism toward India, the Chinese government has begun promoting increased trade and diplomatic ties with India, its neighbor to the south.

In the latest of several visits to India by top Chinese government leaders, Prime Minister Zhu Rongji said he wanted bilateral trade to reach \$10 billion in the coming years. While the present level of \$2.29 billion is less than 1 percent of China's global trade, this represents an increase of 30 percent over 2000-2001.

Israeli regime intensifies offensive

The Israeli regime of Ariel Sharon, which has seized on Washington's "war against terror" rhetoric to justify stepped-up assaults on Palestinians, this past week dismissed a protest by 60 army reservists who refused to continue serving in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Calling the combat veterans a "marginal phenomenon," Sharon's spokesperson, Raanan Gissin, said that "you can't have a government in which people can decide they'll...bomb this target, but not that target."

The reservists have begun circulating a petition they hope to have 500 others sign. The petition declares, in part: "We will no longer fight beyond the Green Line for the purpose of occupying, deporting, destroy-

ing, blockading, killing, starving, and humiliating an entire people."

The Israeli army general staff issued a statement that military service is obligatory under the law and that "there is no place for reserve soldiers to choose what jobs they want and what jobs they don't want."

While the collective character of the latest protest was unusual, more than 500 Israelis have refused to serve in the Israeli-occupied territories since Palestinian struggles and Israeli repression accelerated in September 2000. Some 40 have been sentenced to prison terms. The number of dead in the 16-month period of heightened conflict stands at 1,000, around three-quarters of whom are Palestinians.

In the wake of the U.S. war, Afghanistan has no functioning central government. Local governors, based on tribal ties and ethnic groupings, have divided the country into five unofficial military zones—the north, the west, the east, south of Kabul, and Kandahar province.

"In all aspects we will need the continued support of the United States," said Abdullah, the foreign minister of the interim administration, installed by an imperialist-dominated conference in Germany in December. During a January 28 visit to the White House by Afghan prime minister Hamid Karzai, Bush said that Washington would assist in the construction of an Afghan army and police force.

Offensives by U.S. forces

U.S. armed forces continue to carry out offensive actions inside the country. On January 24 U.S. Special Forces, backed by helicopters and an AC-130 gunship, killed 21 men in a raid on two compounds in Oruzgan, central Afghanistan, and captured 27 others. Faced with a storm of protest from local residents and survivors, who explained that the men were virtually unarmed, the Pentagon said that the attack was aimed at Taliban and al Qaeda fighters and a weapons store. The governor, Jan Muhammad Khan, said the men were in his employ, and that they had collected the weapons as part of a disarmament drive ordered by the Kabul government.

Special Operations forces also directed the January 28 assault on a Kandahar hospital where pro-Taliban fighters had stayed after receiving treatment for wounds. Other Special Forces acted as snipers during the assault. The local Afghan troops who stormed the hospital used explosives and automatic rifles, killing six. U.S. forces had previously opened fire on the hospital as they waited to arrest pro-Taliban fighters during discharge or attempts to escape.

In a January 24 *New York Times* column entitled, "That Dog Won't Bark," conservative commentator William Safire addressed the overwhelming military capacity of the U.S. rulers in the world today. The United States, he wrote, "bold, but not arrogant, newly armed with the will to assert its interests and values" has created a situation in which "our adversaries, growing familiar with our new way, have learned to hold back the barking"—or vocal opposition to Washington's conduct in the world.

While recognizing U.S. domination of the situation, various imperialist countries, as well as Russia, are seeking ways to gain influence with groups in the country. The actions of the government of semicolonial Iran have most irritated Washington, which considers itself the first and last word on what happens in the country.

Iran told to stop 'mischief'

U.S. officials have accused Tehran of infiltrating the area around the northwestern city of Herat, undermining U.S. influence. "Iran is trying to stir up mischief. So far, we haven't taken any action, but we're keeping a very close eye on it," said one military officer. U.S. spy agencies also claim that al Qaeda members have found shelter inside Iran, a charge denied by Tehran.

Leading up to and during the bombing of Afghanistan, the Iranian government agreed to rescue U.S. troops in distress in its territory and to provide a port for U.S. wheat shipments into the war zone. "There are some things we're working in parallel with the Iranians, and some things they're going at in a different direction. We don't have identical goals in Afghanistan," said a State Department official.

In his January 29 State of the Union speech, Bush claimed that Iran "exports terror" and



pursues "weapons of mass destruction." With Iraq, north Korea, and unnamed other countries, Iran forms an "axis of evil," he said.

Strife among Afghan governors

Washington has expressed concern about Tehran's military backing for Ismail Khan, the governor of Herat and the ruler in the south and west of Afghanistan. Iran has also reportedly sent civil engineers, aid, and investment to the area. Khan has been targeted for threats by the U.S.-backed Gul Agha Shirzai, the ruler of the southern region of Kandahar province. Claiming that traders have come under attack by Tajik "bandits" loyal to Khan, Shirzai posted troops along the roads, and moved a total of up to 2,500 soldiers north toward Herat.

Other tensions and conflicts include reported reprisals by soldiers loyal to Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern ruler, against Pashtun villagers on the grounds that Pashtuns dominated the Taliban. Such divisions have their roots in Afghanistan's crippling legacy of colonial and imperialist domination and wars of conquest, of which the U.S. assault is the latest example. Tied to this is the lack of a bourgeois democratic revolution, leaving nation-building tasks, including the dismantling of tribal and semifeastal conditions and social relations, uncompleted.

Muted criticism of Washington has surfaced from the imperialist powers in Europe, including the governments of France and Germany, prompted by U.S. restrictions on the scale and character of their military intervention in Afghanistan. The latest example concerns the imperialist-dominated "security force" stationed in Kabul. The armed forces of the United Kingdom, Canada, France, and Italy, among others, are providing troops to the 4,500-strong force, whose officers are subordinate to the U.S. command.

Retiring UN official Frances Vendrell spoke on January 24 in favor of a seven-

fold increase in the force to 35,000 troops, and recommended that their deployment be extended outside Kabul. "The call today by Mr. Vendrell...came close to challenging the position of the United States, which has opposed a major buildup of the international force," reported the *New York Times*.

Guantánamo prisoners

European politicians have continued to snipe at the harsh conditions imposed on U.S. prisoners of war at Guantánamo base in Cuba. The Paris-based International Federation of Human Rights Leagues stated that the incarceration could turn into a "mere parody of justice." UN Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson, the former president of the Republic of Ireland, said that Washington is risking "the values that we fought to preserve." Government officials in Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom have also protested the prisoners' treatment. Several governments are seeking the return of their citizens who are being held at Guantánamo.

U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell, while agreeing with Bush's refusal to view the detainees as prisoners of war, has argued for changes in the administration's stance on the issue. In Powell's view, reported an approving *New York Times* editorial, "Claims of prisoner of war status could not be decided by Pentagon fiat, but must be resolved by the kind of legal hearing" stipulated in the Geneva Convention. The editorial also pointed to "concerns expressed by...top military commanders" that the White House position "potentially endangered future American troops who may fall into enemy hands."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, on the other hand, insisted that "there is no ambiguity.... They are not POWs." Vice President Richard Cheney said that circumventing the restrictions of the Geneva POW convention allows "flexibility in interrogation," according to the *Times*. "We need to be able to interrogate them and extract from them whatever information they have," he said.

Supporters give \$25,000 from tax refunds to socialist press

BY GREG McCARTAN

One hundred supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* turned their additional federal government tax refunds into a way to build the communist movement. Together they contributed \$25,758.30 to the two socialist publications since last July—a substantial and welcome infusion of funds!

The supporters made an important addition to the finances of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at a time when the communist movement was waging a working-class campaign against imperialism's assault on working people. In launching the fund the *Militant* noted the interest with which the publications were being met by workers and farmers on the front lines of resistance against attacks by those who benefit from the current U.S. tax system: the capitalist families and well-off professional layers who serve them. More are keen to read and discuss the wide range of articles on central political questions in the world today.

Since then, both papers made an invaluable contribution to workers and farmers and

others fighting imperialism as Washington accelerated its assault on workers' rights and war against the people of Afghanistan since September. Sales of single copies of the *Militant* were higher over the fall, as thousands of workers and young people sought out answers and a clear working-class explanation in response to the rulers' offensive.

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, unlike the big-business newspapers and magazines, are funded only by the contributions of its supporters. The two periodicals are sustained by working people and youth through fund drives, special contributions such as those from the tax refund, and selling single copies and subscriptions.

Capitalism will never stop providing plenty of reasons to make a special donation to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. We welcome any additional contributions for any occasion, and from any partisan of the socialist press who may have forgotten to send in their check. Our address is 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. A special thanks to the 100—spread the spirit and commitment even more widely.

From Pathfinder

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by Jack Barnes

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'Jail the killer cops'

Continued from front page

violence, period. People are mad. People are scared. When is it going to end?"

Police kill homeless man

On January 27 police killed a white man identified as Vinnie in the lobby of a motel in Hollywood. Witnesses told the press that the man entered the motel flailing his arms. He fell down, breaking part of a door. The hotel employee who called 911 said he looked like he was having trouble breathing and was unable to speak.

George Cressman of Hollywood, a bar patron, told the *Sun Sentinel* he saw four male police officers "kicking him and teasing him. I said, 'Why don't you take it easy on that guy?' They said, 'Get the hell out of here or you're next.'"

Police claim Vinnie threatened an officer after he was shot with a Taser gun. The gun has darts, or probes, that are shot at a person. The probes are connected to the weapon by high voltage insulated wire. When the probes hit, they pierce about a half inch into the body and shoot 50,000 volts of electricity. The Taser gun is supposed to immobilize the human target for five to 10 seconds. One witness said the police used the taser more than once on the victim.

When emergency personnel arrived they found Vinnie face down handcuffed behind his back. He had no pulse and was not breathing.

'Jail killer cops'

During the second demonstration demanding justice for Eddie Macklin, protesters gathered along the sidewalk as dozens

of demonstrators passed out flyers in the street to cars driving by and urged them to join the action.

"Jail killer cops to save our community!" and "Murder is murder!" were among the signs carried by protesters. Support for the action was registered by the overwhelming response from drivers honking their car horns and slowing traffic.

Helena Talley, an 18-year-old Miami resident, said of the shooting of Macklin: "This is very wrong. They had him blocked off and yet they went and shot him. We don't want this happening to any more of our brothers, sisters, and cousins. This is a signal that Black folks need to come together. We'll probably get a little notice on this. I believe it will be noticed, maybe forgotten about—but we are not going to forget about this. We say 10-20-Life!"

This demand has been put forward because of the double standard for police officers and others charged with killing someone. Sentences for murder range from 10 to 20 years or life. The demand is for police to be sentenced according to the same regulations.

Henry Farmer, 41, of Liberty City said the cop's shooting of Macklin, "was wrong. The man was unarmed. There was no reason for him to get shot. Suspending the police with pay is not fair. They kill someone and they get a paid vacation."

At the rally Max Rameau, leader of Brothers of the Same Mind, a Miami Black rights organization, listed 18 demands for justice, including arresting killer cops, prosecuting the cop who killed Macklin, and no cover-ups by the police.

Black History Month boosts Pathfinder sales

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

TORONTO—Building on their work to substantially increase Pathfinder sales in Canada in 2001, volunteer sales representatives have found that Black History Month, celebrated in February, has provided an opening to consolidate relations built up over the past year's efforts.

Pathfinder's lead title for Black History Month is *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution*, by Cuban leader Victor Dreke (see excerpt and information on pages 8–9).

In early January, the Pathfinder volunteer sales people produced and faxed to a number of bookstores a two-page flyer and order form centered on Pathfinder's Black History titles.

It features collections of speeches by Malcolm X and Nelson Mandela and a section on "War and Racism" with, for example, *To Speak the Truth* by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, *Capitalism's World Disorder* by Jack Barnes, and *Cointelpro: The*

FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom by Nelson Blackstock.

Two stores specializing in titles on Black rights and Afro-Caribbean history welcomed sales visits and placed substantial orders for books on these subjects and titles on Cuba as well. One buyer explained that whenever a picture of Argentine-born Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara is displayed in the window, it draws people into the store.

Another, at the suggestion of the Pathfinder representative who had noted the many new Latino stores in the neighborhood, took a copy of the Spanish-language version of *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Mandela and Castro, as well as two copies of the *Communist Manifesto*.

As the buyers have worked with Pathfinder sales representatives over the past 12 months, a mutual collaboration has grown up, permitting a back-and-forth of suggestions on what books will sell and what titles to try out.

Janitors march for pay raise at Harvard



Edgar Barrios

More than 500 workers and students marched in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Martin Luther King Day January 21. The protest and an earlier rally backed the demand for a wage increase by janitors represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 254 at Harvard University. Participants carried "Justice for Janitors" signs and chanted, "What's outrageous? Harvard's wages! What's disgusting? Union busting!" Negotiations with university management began the next day. Last spring, students organized an occupation of a university hall in solidarity with the workers' fight for wages, benefits, and full-time jobs.

A call for a federal civil rights investigation was issued by Florida representative Carrie Meeks and Rep. John Conyers Jr.

The demonstration ended with a candlelight vigil. Buses are currently being orga-

nized to take people to Macklin's wake in Pompano Beach and then to the funeral in West Palm Beach. A memorial demonstration was called for January 31 in Liberty City.

Pathfinder bookstore opens new location in N.Y.

BY EMILY FITZSIMMONS

NEW YORK—It was standing room only at the grand opening celebration of the new Pathfinder bookstore in Upper Manhattan January 25. A buffet dinner and Militant Labor Forum on the social explosion in Argentina against the capitalist collapse there attracted 50 people to the new bookstore, located on a prominent corner in the working-class neighborhood of Washington Heights.

Martin Koppel, editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Romina Green, a national leader of the Young Socialists, both of whom recently returned from a two-week reporting trip to Argentina, were the featured speakers.

A number of those who attended found out about the meeting from a short article in the Spanish-language daily *El Diario*, including five women originally from Argentina who are now living in the New York and New Jersey area. Others got leaflets for the event on street tables of Pathfinder literature in the workers district.

Four Dominican political activists came to the bookstore that evening specifically to pick up their copies of the brand-new Pathfinder title *From the Escambray to the Congo, In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution* by Cuban revolutionary leader Victor Dreke.

When the sales volunteers followed up the fax with a phone call to other stores, many book buyers explained that Black History Month does not have much of an impact on their sales.

Many did not want to see a salesperson but, as a result of the fax and previous visits or phone calls over the past period, a good half dozen promised to make a modest order, including restocking from their previous orders. A second round of reminder phone calls has just been made to these buyers, many of whom appreciated the jog to their memory.

In these calls and during their visits, salespeople have been promoting *From the Escambray to the Congo* to buyers. Informal arrangements have been made with several to drop by to show it to them now that it is available.

One way Pathfinder supporters have increased sales over the past year is by organizing regular visits, phone calls, e-mails, delivery of catalogs, and other publicity

material to a number of library systems and national bookstore chains. While the reaction was almost invariably very cordial, no orders were immediately forthcoming for these system-wide buyers. In all cases, buyers said that the books were worthwhile and would be ordered in due course.

Using Black History Month and the obvious authority of Pathfinder's titles to bolster their case and their confidence, reps recontacted a number of these buyers and succeeded in obtaining the first order: 51 copies each of four titles by or about Malcolm X, for a total of 204 books. This has reaffirmed that patient, consistent work breeds results, and that this work has a longer time frame than for individual bookstores.

Other orders included one from a general store serving Spanish-language customers in Vancouver for six or seven titles in Spanish. A course adoption for 70 copies of the French-language version of the pamphlet *The Transformation of Learning* by Jack Barnes was also recently rushed to a Quebec university. A Toronto rep has arranged a visit to a local community center, too. Broadening the scope of sales efforts beyond bookstores has proven important to sustaining sales.

In this light, Toronto volunteers are excited to have discovered that local high school librarians each have purchasing discretion over their stock—and the prominent part played by Black History Month in many classrooms may ease the way for Pathfinder titles.

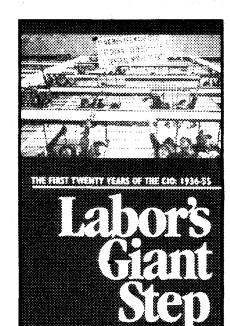
Katy LeRougetel is a member of the Graphic Communications International Union.

from Pathfinder

Labor's Giant Step The First Twenty Years of the CIO: 1936–55

Art Preis

The story of the explosive labor struggles and political battles in the 1930s that built the industrial unions. And how those unions became the vanguard of a mass social movement that began transforming U.S. society. \$26.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12; write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690; or visit www.pathfinderpress.com. Please include \$3 for shipping and handling.

Workers, youth in Carolinas back fired garment worker

Continued from front page

defending freedom of speech at the university campus. The Campus Greens cosponsored the program along with the local Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights.

Italie showed a brief video of television coverage of his case, and described how the bosses at Goodwill fired him for comments he made in an election debate as the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami on October 18. As part of these remarks Italie said he opposed the U.S. rulers' war in Afghanistan, favored workers building their unions, and supported the Cuban Revolution.

In his talk here, Italie pointed to the inhumane treatment of Afghan prisoners at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as an example of the connection between the U.S. rulers' war abroad and the intensified attacks on workers' rights at home. What the U.S. government is organizing at Guantanamo—trying to dehumanize hundreds of people it has captured and organizing an affront to the people of revolutionary Cuba—is an extension of the assault by the employers and their government against working people at home," Italie said.

In his presentation and in answer to a question, he talked about other people he has met during his tour who are also standing up and fighting employer and government victimizations. He pointed to a press conference he attended recently in Florida for Sami Al-Arian, who is fighting an attempt by the University of South Florida to fire him.

"We have to challenge those who say we can't speak at a time like this," said Ahmad Daniels in his presentation. He reviewed the events that led to county manager Harry Jones demanding that Daniels "resign by noon or you'll be fired at 2 p.m." for writing a letter that Jones claimed was "somewhat inflammatory, divisive." Daniels urged those attending the forum to speak out "against an unjust war and for freedom of speech." He also appealed for funds to support Italie's fight; about \$200 was contributed on-the-spot.

Howard McLure of the Carolina Advocates for Legal Reform and Ammar Alyounes, director of the Islamic Center of Charlotte, also addressed the meeting. McLure explained that his organization advocates for representation of low and middle-income people who have been wrongfully terminated. "We need to find ways to combat this situation," McLure said.

Alyounes noted that immediately following September 11 "the Arab and Muslim communities were subjected to all forms of abuse. If you didn't offer an apology [for the attack on the World Trade Center], you were viewed as an accessory." He denounced the Bush administration for freezing the funds of Islamic charities "at the sign of a pen."

Leonard Riley, from International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local 1422 in Charleston, South Carolina, was unable to attend but sent a message to the Charlotte meeting (see below).

Leading up to the event at UNCC, sup-

porters of the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights collected more than 75 signatures on petitions asking the mayor of Miami to pressure Goodwill to reinstate Italie. One-third of those signatures were from members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) at two Pillowtex plants in nearby Kannapolis.

Discussions with dockworkers

In Charleston, Italie and a supporter set up an information table at the ILA union hall, which is the hiring hall for unionized dockworkers. Many workers stopped to talk with the socialist worker and took fact sheets about his case. Some signed petitions supporting his fight and dropped a few dollars into a collection can.

A number of the dockworkers described the fight they went through to defend the Charleston Five—five ILA members accused of "riot" after police assaulted a union picket line two years ago. They had been picketing Nordana shipping company, which was using the nonunion WSI stevedoring outfit instead of ILA labor. Felony charges against the ILA members were dropped last fall, after a national and international defense campaign. The union local and 27 of its members are still fighting against a lawsuit brought by WSI for supposed damages caused by ILA members defending their union.

David King, who is in the process of joining the Longshoremen's union, readily signed a petition to support Italie. "I used to work for Goodwill and was fired unjustly," King said. He had worked as a driver picking up donations. "Most of the Blacks who



Militant Dean Hazlewood

Michael Italie speaks at University of North Carolina in Charlotte on January 23

worked there were gotten rid of," he added. King also described how, in his view, "Goodwill takes advantage of immigrant labor" to pay rock-bottom wages.

"Most of my co-workers were immigrants," Italie responded. "They take the low wages because it's a job. But once they're in a job, they fight for their rights. While I worked at Goodwill I, along with other co-workers, went to rallies for immigrant rights."

As part of a nationwide tour, Italie is scheduled to speak next in San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver, British Columbia.

To schedule speaking engagements for Michael Italie in your area, please send the proposed dates and events planned to the

Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, P.O. Box 510127, Miami, FL, 33151-0127. Tel: (305) 724-5965 or E-mail: DefendFreeSpeech@yahoo.com

The committee is urgently in need of funds to produce literature, pay for phone calls, and plan travel. Financial contributions, large and small, can be sent to the above address. Please make checks out to the Free Speech Defense Fund.

Naomi Craine is textile worker and a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. Dean Hazlewood contributed to this article.

'Constitution guarantees the right to express'

The following message from Leonard Riley Jr., a member of the executive board of International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422 in Charleston, South Carolina, was sent to the "Defend Freedom of Speech" meeting held January 23 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

I am very sorry and deeply disappointed that I am unable to resolve my work situation so that I could attend this most important forum. I am sure it will be a great success in keeping the efforts alive to combat those forces in our great country that have organized to deprive those persons with different views of their fundamental rights, including but not limited to Freedom of Speech.

These forces seek to suppress the expressions of any person or groups that see the issues differently from the power brokers. While we all may have a different take on what should be the response to the acts of September 11, 2001, it is critically important to remember and emphasize that the Constitution of the United States of America guarantees each of us the right to express how we feel about any issue. These guarantees extend to all modes of communication, speech, writing, picket lines, entertainment, etc.

I am a member of the International Longshoremen's Association, Local 1422, in Charleston, S.C. We are a union that loads and unloads ships that come into the Port of Charleston. We are in all probability the largest union in South Carolina. We are also a predominantly Black local. Since 1997 we have been more socially and politically active. We made a conscious decision to advocate for all workers, union or not, and champion the causes that would better the community in which we live.

We became politically active, helping to elect those who said they would fight for social change in our community. We became vocal against divisive symbols such as the Confederate Flag (flying atop the statehouse). We also successfully lobbied for our state to honor Dr. Martin Luther King with a State holiday. Along with the strength of our numbers, we used our money to fight these and many other social ills.

On January 20, 2000, while legally picketing a Nordana ship because of its refusal

to use the ILA and breaking a five-year contract, the fiercely antiunion State Government and allies such as the State Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturers' Alliance coordinated a military attack on our picket line. This resulted in my being arrested along with nine others. Five members were eventually indicted and placed under house arrest for nearly two years. They became known as the Charleston Five. They could not travel nor could they be out of their homes before 7:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. unless they were at work.

Thanks to the support from trade unionists, workers, and freedom lovers and social activists from across America and around the world, enough pressure was put on State Attorney General Charlie Condon and the judicial process that they were forced to drop these trumped-up felonious charges. They woke a sleeping giant.

So I, along with my Brothers and Sisters,

fully understand the unjust firing of both brothers Michael Italie and Ahmad Daniels. We fully support the struggle to have these courageous Brothers reinstated to their jobs and to have them fully compensated for time and benefits missed from being out of work. Our Local will follow this case very closely. Where there is a picket line to protest these unjust firings we will be there. We have learnt firsthand that an injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere. An injury to one is an injury to all. Keep up the struggle, we will win because we are right.

This is a most appropriate time for such a forum during a time when our nation celebrates the legacy of Dr. King, who so wisely reminded us that if America is to remain a first-class nation, there can be no second-class citizen. Freedom of speech, as well as all of the rights laid out in the Constitution of the United States of America, belongs to all of its citizens.

'Management disagreed with Italie's political viewpoint'

The following letter was sent Jan. 28, 2002, to Miami mayor Manny Diaz and to the city commissioners by the Union of Union Representatives Executive Board. It was signed by Kathy Guyton, president; Greg Maron, Western Region vice president; Aly Young, secretary; Kristen Wilke, Central Region vice president; Dave Beal, treasurer; Richard Schwartz, Southern Region vice president; Calvin Jackson, chapter chair; Dawn Quaresima, Eastern Region vice president; and Gilda Turner, district 925 chair.

We are writing to demand that you pressure Goodwill Industries to reinstate fired employee Michael Italie. As you know, Mr. Italie was fired by Goodwill simply because management disagreed with his political viewpoint. His work performance was not an issue, and the political comments for which he was fired were made during mayoral debates and have no relevance to his employment with Goodwill Industries.

Goodwill is a "private" organization, but as a public charity they are exempt from federal taxation and have noncompetitive rights to supply goods to the government. Thus, the legality of this situation is tenuous. However, the real issue here is not whether Mr. Italie's firing is legal, but if it is just. As public officials, you have an obligation to serve the citizens of Miami and to speak out against threats to their civil liberties. Indeed, the specter of censorship should not loom over the heads of Miami's working people. In the wake of the devastating events of September 11, now more than ever we must embody the ideals of freedom and democracy of which we are so proud.

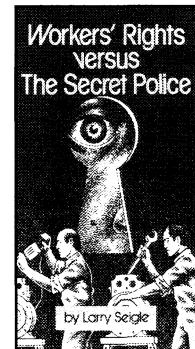
As working men and women living outside of Miami, we are concerned that this gross violation of Mr. Italie's democratic right to free speech, if unchecked, could set a dangerous precedent of trampling individual freedoms in favor of corporate power. We are calling on you to defend the right of free speech and to use your considerable influence to reinstate Mr. Italie.

From Pathfinder

Workers' Rights versus the Secret Police

by Larry Seigle

How, since the inception of the modern revolutionary movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups. \$3



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

Join with young socialists and proletarian fighters to build the communist movement

Continued from front page

members, supporters, and contacts of the communist movement. The whole weekend was part of a months-long effort to reorganize Pathfinder, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the SWP's national office, along with Pathfinder's printshop.

Participants traveled from as far away as California and Washington State; Texas; Florida; and Toronto and Montreal in Canada. The meeting reflected the hard work and high spirits of the volunteers, who, through a series of such "red weekends," are dramatically transforming the apparatus that produces the books, pamphlets, and periodicals of the communist movement.

By the end of the weekend the socialists workers and young socialists had reorganized and divided Pathfinder's entire stock of books into a smaller and more efficient pick-and-pack operation integrated as part of Pathfinder's offices, and a larger supply that is stored in the printshop.

Teams worked throughout the two days to turn editorial material from paper to electronic files and to collect the e-mail numbers of every Pathfinder customer so the publishing house can begin sending out invoices electronically.

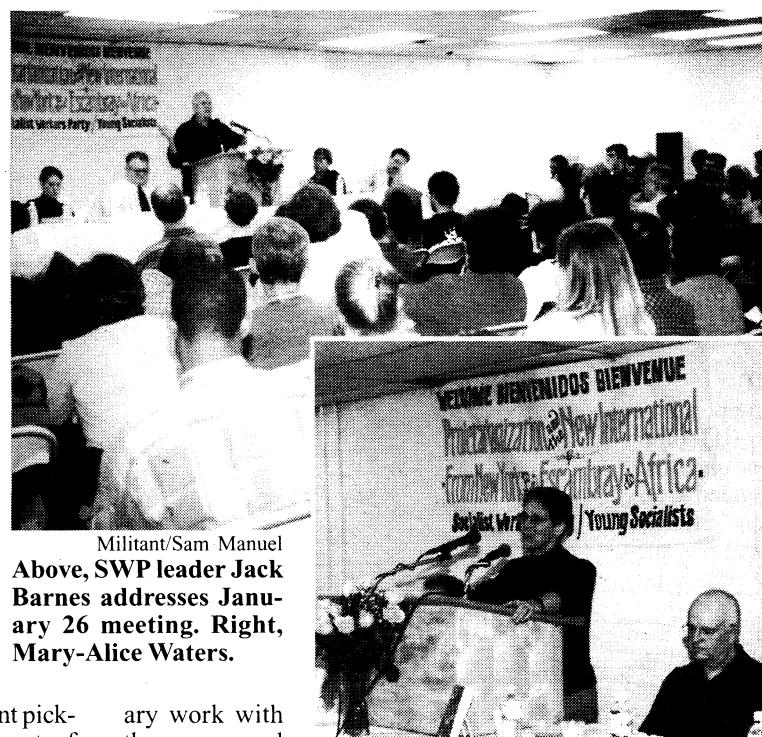
Others organized an area for volunteers to ship out the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* to subscribers and distributors, and set up an area for office supplies.

Barnes, who chaired the meeting, read greetings to the event from leaders of the party branch in Birmingham, Alabama, which held a simultaneous grand opening of their headquarters in a workers district in the city. They noted the interest that Pathfinder books have generated among workers in the area, and expressed confidence that establishing the headquarters and bookstore will advance their party-building work. In addition, branch members have gotten hired together in both coal mines and textile mills in the area, deepening the proletarianization of the party unit.

The possibilities for building the communist movement were also seen in the turnout of 50 people the evening before at the grand opening of the party headquarters and Pathfinder bookstore in Upper Manhattan (see article, page 4).

On the previous weekend 30 workers and youth had attended a socialist educational weekend in Miami.

Individuals and small groups of youth and workers are coming around the party and Young Socialists in New York. Many are immigrants, originally from Argentina, Burkina Faso, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, and other countries. In his remarks, Barnes returned several times to discuss how the party and Young Socialists can together organize practical revolution-



Militant/Sam Manuel
Above, SWP leader Jack Barnes addresses January 26 meeting. Right, Mary-Alice Waters.

ary work with these vanguard fighters, joining the three forces together in a common organization.

Acceleration of imperialism's course

"We need to keep remembering that September 11 only marked an acceleration of the course of U.S. imperialism and the underlying contradictions and tendencies moving at different paces for years beforehand," Barnes emphasized.

In George Bush's announcement of the big increase in the budget for "homeland defense," the U.S. president stated that the U.S. rulers are "fighting a two-front war." In Washington's view, every opposition to imperialism anywhere in the world has a counterpart right here in the United States.

Plans to hire, train, and equip more cops and *la migra* agents are part of the broad assault on immigrant workers. Washington more and more sees anyone who overstays their visa as a suspect in the "war on terrorism." But, he noted, there is a big gap between budget proposals and the rulers' ability to use the full scope of the measures they hope to carry out against the working class owing to the resistance among working people and conflicts among the rulers themselves.

On the military front, Washington's forces remain stronger than the rest of its imperialist rivals combined, with a nuclear arsenal that is continually renewed and remains as potent as ever. The U.S. rulers will continue their drive to set up an antimissile system to prevent smaller countries from using missiles and other advanced technology to the disadvantage of U.S. imperialism.

Along with the use of its military, Washington will increasingly weigh in with its economic power to impose tariffs and pursue trade disputes in order to maximize the competitive advantage that capitalists in the

United States have over their competitors.

Barnes recalled that the Hawley-Smoot Act of 1930, which brought U.S. tariffs to their highest-ever protective level at the time, played a big role in bringing on the Great Depression, as retaliatory measures by other countries sent U.S. exports into a sharp decline.

Rightists in Europe

As has already happened in the United States, immigration is transforming the working class in Europe. This development has been accompanied by a growing number of murders, cop killings, and rightist attacks against immigrant workers, Barnes noted. Right-wing forces who campaign against immigrants as the "enemy within" have grown.

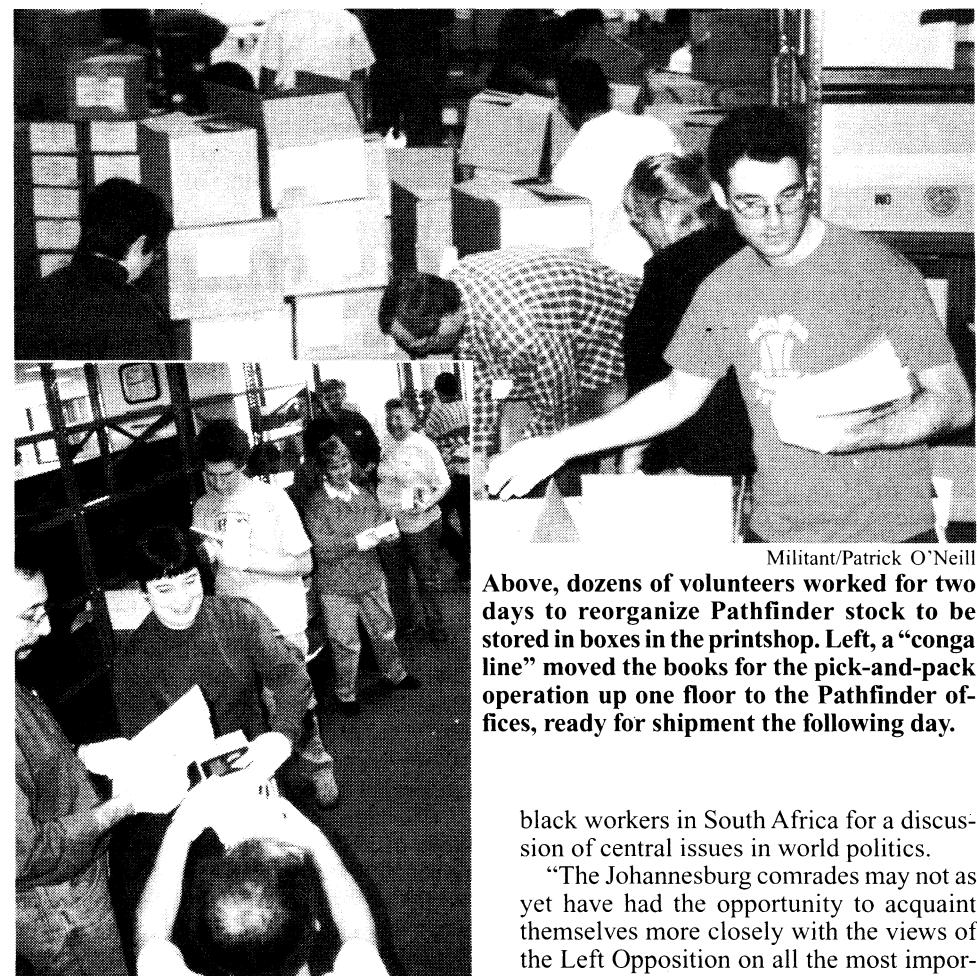
"These battles are part and parcel of the attacks on the vanguard of the working class and are the biggest polarizing element and pressure on workers today," Barnes said. "Only a proletarian party that is comfortable with and immersed in this section of

Socialist workers and young socialists on reporting teams to Argentina, at book fairs in Cuba and Mexico and other countries, and at labor and social protests in the United States where they meet workers in struggle, present this perspective. They discuss with these co-fighters the fact that it is possible to chart a road to bring an end to the brutalities of capitalism by converging with the communist movement and building proletarian parties capable of leading working people to power.

And socialist workers and youth here have one decisive point to bring to proletarian leaders around the world: the fact that a communist leadership can and will be built in the United States, Barnes said. This will make it possible to bring down the world's final empire; until that is accomplished, a nuclear question mark will continue to hang over humanity.

Fusing with proletarian leaderships

To help clarify these party-building perspectives, Barnes pointed to a letter written in 1932 by Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the Russian Revolution who fought to continue the communist traditions of the Bolshevik party led by Lenin. Trotsky headed the communist forces in the Left Opposition in the battle to rebuild proletarian parties and a revolutionary international leadership. In his 1932 letter to the International Secretariat of the Left Opposition, he reported a request from an organization of



Militant/Patrick O'Neill
Above, dozens of volunteers worked for two days to reorganize Pathfinder stock to be stored in boxes in the printshop. Left, a "conga line" moved the books for the pick-and-pack operation up one floor to the Pathfinder offices, ready for shipment the following day.

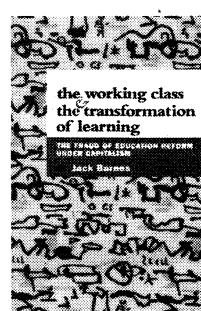
black workers in South Africa for a discussion of central issues in world politics.

"The Johannesburg comrades may not as yet have had the opportunity to acquaint themselves more closely with the views of the Left Opposition on all the most important questions. But this cannot be an obstacle to our getting together with them as closely as possible at this very moment, and helping them in a comradely way to come into the orbit of our program and tactics." Trotsky noted that the clear voice and actions of the communist vanguard will attract the "warm sympathies of the most oppressed sections of the international working class... to whom belongs the decisive word in the development of humankind."

To help respond to similar party-building opportunities in the United States today, Barnes said, the volunteer red weekends are assisting in preparations to move Pathfinder, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the party's National Office to a shared location with the Garment District branch in Manhattan. This will help make it possible for the leadership of the party and young socialists in New York to organize to carry out a fusion of their forces with those from all countries and nationalities coming toward the communist movement in the city.

Barnes introduced Angel Lariscy, a member of the Brooklyn branch of the party and the daytime foreman in Pathfinder's printshop. Prior to the event, participants were able to walk through the printshop in order to see the setup of the sheetfed presses, the capital additions to the shop's web press, and

From Pathfinder



The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism

JACK BARNES

"This pamphlet argues that schools will never be reformed because literacy, self-discipline, and curiosity are more dangerous than useful to the ruling class"—Vertical File Index review. \$3.00. Also in French, Icelandic, Spanish, and Swedish.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

JACK BARNES

There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba—Fidel Castro, March 1961.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. Preface by Mary-Alice Waters. \$13.00. Also in French and Spanish.

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write: Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150.

Vferris@pathfinderpress.com

the working class and in proletarian struggles can lead working people." In contrast to the response of the proletarian party, these sections of the working class are invisible to the social democrats of all stripes. For their part, the union chieftains consider the people who enter into mass struggles against the employers and their government to be trash, he said.

One result of Washington's war against Afghanistan, Barnes noted, was the increased intensity of the conflict between India and Pakistan. In the Middle East, the actions of U.S. imperialism since September 11 have put wind in the sails of the Israeli ruling class and armed forces in their war against the Palestinian people.

The U.S. rulers' growing arrogance is based on the belief that they can subject people anywhere to the same brutality they are dealing out to the prisoners at the illegally occupied U.S. naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba.

But "victories" such as these, said Barnes, lead to new resistance by workers and farmers, including at home. The proletarian fighters and leaderships this resistance breeds lack knowledge that their actions are part of a course towards the communist move-

the reorganized storage of paper in the shop.

"We currently have 15 people in the shop," Lariscy said. "Thirteen are in production and two more make up our full-time sales force. All the work that was previously done by a full-time staff in our front office is now done from the production floor, where we run three presses on a two-shift schedule."

Lariscy described the programs that have been instituted to train enough operators to run all three presses for two shifts a day. Press operators are also learning how to bill and invoice jobs as they are completed, and basic plate-making techniques on the shop's computer-to-plate equipment.

Over the weekend the computer terminals of the plate-making machine were moved onto the production floor. This change allows the plate-making process to be integrated into the work of the press operators, said Lariscy. Next up is the transfer of the entire computer-to-plate machine to the press area.

As printshop volunteers have organized the shop around keeping three presses running for two shifts, a number of volunteers have been freed up to build the party in New York and elsewhere. Barnes noted that there are now a dozen socialist workers and Young Socialists either employed in the meatpacking and garment industries in New York City, or organizing to be.

The work of the volunteer brigades over the weekend, said Mary-Alice Waters in her presentation, was essential in organizing Pathfinder to devote increased attention to the promotion and distribution of Pathfinder books. Bringing the editorial offices and the pick-and-pack operation together on the same floor will help reduce duplicate work, increase the use of computers, and maximize the impact of editing, promoting, and selling the revolutionary books and pamphlets produced by the publishing house.

Titles needed in Cuba and United States

In one week's time, said Waters, an international team of Pathfinder supporters will travel to Cuba to participate in the Havana International Book Fair. Pathfinder, which has a long tradition of participation in the fair, will be able to hold public launchings of three books at this year's event, she said. One will be a meeting around the newest book, *From the Escambray to the Congo*. Another will celebrate the Spanish-language edition of the pamphlet *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*, a speech by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the revolution in Burkina Faso in the 1980s. Tricontinental Publishers, who will present "Equality and the Participation of Mozambican Women," will co-sponsor the event. A third meeting will be organized for *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas* by Fidel Castro and Gen. José Ramón Fernández.

Following the book fair, Waters and other Pathfinder supporters will travel together with Victor Dreke to several cities in Cuba to participate in launchings of *From the Escambray to the Congo*. The meetings will be organized by the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, a leadership organization of those who served in internationalist and military operations, and the local government and Communist Party in each city.

In his book, said Waters, Victor Dreke brings to life "what men and women can make happen by beginning to change the economic structure and social relations through making a socialist revolution."

Waters said that *From the Escambray to the Congo* will be Pathfinder's lead title for Black History Month in February. She encouraged those present to begin organizing to take the book to college campuses. Make the most of opportunities, she said, to discuss the book's content with student organizations who may want to organize a meeting about it, and to introduce it to Black Studies departments and bookstores.

Pathfinder publishes titles such as these, she said, because they are needed by working people in the United States, "by the young Victor Drekos of all colors and nationalities, whether native-born or on these shores due to the lawful workings of capitalism. Here they will find the brutalities of imperialism and capitalism. But they will

also find the communist movement, the continuity of communism, and the opportunity to collaborate and work together with the Socialist Workers Party."

Advances for Communist Leagues

SWP leaders Norton Sandler and Olympia Newton described steps forward being made in Sweden and the United Kingdom by the Communist Leagues and Young Socialists in those countries. Both are carrying out what has become known in the movement as the "third campaign for the turn." This involves a sharp reorientation to find and follow the lines of resistance in the working class and to establish industrial union fractions among layers of the proletariat that are facing and resisting the employers' assault.

In the United Kingdom, Sandler said, members of the Communist League are getting jobs in the meatpacking and garment industries. They have also established an organizing committee in Scotland, opening up an arena of consistent activity outside of London. These steps have put the party and YS "in touch with a layer of the working class they haven't been in contact with before. These moves have had a big impact on young people interested in our movement and opened up new possibilities for recruitment," he said.

Newton, who is also a member of the Young Socialists National Executive Committee, said that one of the political strengths of the work of the YS over the past year has been to "see our world movement as part of a broader anti-imperialist movement today." She pointed to the work that YS members from a number of countries carried out in building and participating in the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students in Algiers last summer, and to the organization's ongoing collaboration with the Union of Young Communists in Cuba.

In Sweden, she said, the YS and Communist League decided to shift their jobs from the auto and electronics industries to meatpacking and garment or textile. They have also decided to fuse their two organizations and have established an organizing committee in Gothenburg. These three steps have already led to "a deeper integration into the working class in Sweden and the discovery of industries the comrades didn't know existed before."

Explosion of resistance in Argentina

Perspectiva Mundial editor Martín Koppel spoke about the explosion of resistance in Argentina and the openings to work with proletarian leaders there today. He was part of a three-person reporting team that had just returned after two weeks in the South American country.

In reporting on a variety of actions, including protests against government austerity measures and the impact of the country's \$140 billion foreign debt; mobilizations by strikers demanding back pay; and demonstrations by unemployed workers, the team "found a hunger for politics, a deep interest in the Cuban Revolution and in learning about Ernesto Che Guevara, and a welcome response to what we had to say about the struggles and resistance of working people in the United States," Koppel said. "There is now a trail of Pathfinder books, *New Internationals*, and *Perspectiva Mundials* to follow up on in Argentina," he said.

This interest is evident in the United States as well. Young people and workers who have emigrated from Argentina attended public meetings in Miami and New York at which Koppel spoke about the reporting trip.

Barnes said that the regular financial contributions of supporters of the party are proving decisive in the work of the communist movement. Party supporters have begun organizing a campaign to raise their annual contributions to \$300,000.

In addition, a Capital Fund of \$600,000 launched at a red weekend in December will help lay the basis for the continued production of Pathfinder books, the renewal of printshop equipment, and other major capital needs. By the end of the weekend, the fund had reached a total of \$410,485 from 39 contributors.

A special sale of overstocked Education for Socialists bulletins and hardcover Path-



Left, Militant/Carole Lesnick
Top left, student demonstration January 23, in Manila, Philippines, to protest arrival of U.S. Special Operations Forces in the country. Above, workers employed at government enterprises march January 30 in Seoul, south Korea. Left, socialist workers at literature table in the Sunset Park workers district in Brooklyn. Imperialism's "victories" in the world are breeding proletarian leaderships in country after country, opening possibilities for building communist parties capable of leading working people to power.

finder books was held during the weekend. Socialists of all generations seized the opportunity to expand their libraries, purchasing books to a total value of \$1,890.

The course laid out by the speakers, explained Barnes in conclusion, is one of a proletarianization of the communist movement to maximize the ability of proletarian fighters to join the party and to gain enough experience to decide to become lifetime communists.

The socialist revolution, he said, opens up the chance for working people to fight to transform the conditions of life. Under capitalism, it is impossible to eliminate racism, women's oppression, and to close the gap between the conditions in the cities and countryside. With the socialist revolution humanity can begin the fight to overcome these horrors of class society. On this new ground, the working class can open the battle to turn state property into social property.

The Cuban Revolution made it possible for working people to begin to grapple with these questions and chart a course along this road. The rich lessons of this battle are taken up in books such as *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*, he said.

Weekend 'differs from jobs I've had'

Several young people and workers who joined the volunteer brigades said they decided to participate after hearing reports from previous red weekends. Brendan Mills McCabe, a 20-year-old student from Seattle who joined the Young Socialists last July, said two YS members there had told him about their earlier experiences.

"I've also talked to people who had worked in the printshop and heard about how things have changed. That made me really interested in coming," he said. "I'm impressed that people are here on a voluntary basis working this weekend; they're proud of the goals they make and the work they do. It's very different from jobs I've had."

"It's great to experience something like this," he said. "You feel more what's necessary and what can be accomplished. Last night Jack Barnes said the presses will still be running, even when the printshop moves. That they won't all shut down for even one day, because that's what we need."

Michel Duguay, 23, a student at Laval University in Quebec City, said he worked in the warehouse taking boxes from shelves and putting them in alphabetical order. He also took out hardcover copies from the warehouse for sale and brought other books up for the pick-and-pack operation in Pathfinder. "I'm really glad I came here and got to meet other members of the YS and the SWP. I see a lot of solidarity here."

Duguay said he became a YS member in Quebec shortly after the events on September 11, although that had nothing to do with his decision. "I went to the protest against the Free Trade Area of the Americas in Quebec City. Something was missing there and it didn't seem to accomplish anything. I was working in a paint shop when I met members of the YS at a literature table," he said. "I didn't know much about Marx but I liked

the scientific approach to politics. I usually go to Montreal every weekend to staff literature tables at the Metro station and on campus."

When he gets back to Canada, Duguay said he will be working to build a public meeting for Communist League member Christian Catalan who participated in the *Militant* reporting trip to Argentina. "We met a number of people who expressed interest in the meeting at a literature table recently where we sold four subscriptions to the *Militant*. People are interested in having other news besides what's in the big-business press."

Carlos, a maintenance worker from Cuba who now lives in New Jersey, said he participated in the activities because "comrades invited me to come for the weekend. Everything I learned in Cuba about the United States—I've had the misfortune to live it. In this country the conditions are horrible and very exploitative."

"Under this democracy, they've taken away many social programs such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children," he said. "In the city where I live the authorities want to close down a school, but the parents are fighting it."

Rose Engstrom traveled from St. Paul, Minnesota, to participate in the weekend of voluntary labor. "I wanted to be a part of what's happening with the transformation of the print shop," she said. Engstrom, 31, a laid-off textile worker, said that it had been helpful to hear Jack Barnes explain why Pathfinder, the *Militant*, and the SWP National Office need to move to another area in New York to be part of a workers district.

Engstrom said that as a student in the early 1990s she got involved in political activities against the Gulf War and in labor solidarity actions. She said she joined the communist movement because "I wanted to be political. I believe that this society can be changed. When I got involved I kept running into the party."

From Pathfinder

Che Guevara Talks to Young People

"We are attacked a great deal because of what we are. But we are attacked much, much more because we show to every nation of the Americas what it's possible to be. What's important for imperialism — much more than Cuba's nickel mines or sugar mills, or Venezuela's oil, or Mexico's cotton, or Chile's copper, or Argentina's cattle, or Paraguay's grasslands, or Brazil's coffee — is the totality of these raw materials upon which the monopolies feed." —Che Guevara, July 28, 1960

\$15.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or at pathfinderpress.com.

'Rifles for cooks, rifles for teachers, I

Reprinted below is the fourth and final installment from the chapter "Lucha Contra Bandidos" in the Escambray of the new Pathfinder book *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution*, an interview with Cuban revolutionary Víctor Dreke.

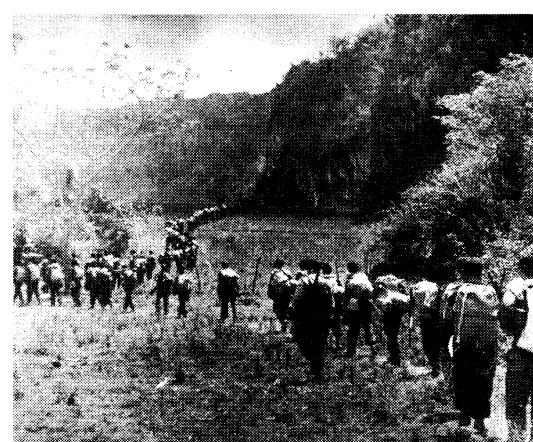
Dreke fought in the Cuban revolutionary war, led by the Rebel Army, that overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in January 1959. In the early 1960s, he was a commander of the volunteer battalions that fought the U.S.-organized counterrevolutionary bands in the Escambray mountains of central Cuba. In 1965 he was second in command of the column of Cuban internationalist volunteers, headed by Ernesto Che Guevara, that joined with national liberation fighters in the Congo. He subsequently carried out numerous internationalist missions in Africa.

Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, and Luis Madrid, a Pathfinder editor, conducted the first session of the interview with Dreke in Havana on Oct. 26, 1999. Pathfinder editor Michael Taber and *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martín Koppel joined Waters in a second interview session on Dec. 2, 2001.

This book is now available, with simultaneous editions in English and Spanish. Copyright © 2002 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

One morning in 1963 an informant for State Security came and told us there was a group of bandits in Manicaragua, at the entrance to the town. There's a bridge there, as I mentioned earlier. The bandits were led by Porfirio Guillén, who was one of the leaders appointed by Julio Emilio Carretero and Osvaldo Ramírez.

To tell you the truth, I thought the information was false.



Bohemia
Members of Lucha Contra Bandidos unit on march to capture counterrevolutionaries.

"It's a lie," I said.

I was stubborn. But I issued orders to the compañeros, "All right, let's go fire some shots and find out."

But we had a problem. We had hardly any troops right there, just one company, the famous company of the Mayaguana Horse—and part of it was on leave. This



We would move these units to carry out these operations to root them out.

There's something about the antibandit struggle that I think is important for everyone to understand: Our troops never abused a single prisoner. We never mistreated a single one, even though those prisoners had committed a great many murders, and we hated them. We hated them. That has to be said. Because you saw peasants murdered, women massacred, children orphaned. You never want to hate a human being, of course, but the individuals who did these things had first and last names that we knew.

There were some bandits of whom we'd say, "We must pursue and capture so-and-so at all costs." We were all hardheaded about this, all of us involved in the struggle against the bandits—compañeros like Lizardo Proenza, the last commander of the LCB, who was a great compañero in the struggle against bandits. Tomás[sevich] too. We were all that way. They had to be captured. Because behind them was a trail of death and destruction, of crimes and murders of innocent people that we had to stop.

Pedro González was one of the bandits we were determined to get. He committed many murders and was able to create panic in the Trinidad area. One of his last acts was to attack a bus carrying paper workers leaving the factory and traveling along the road from Trinidad to Sancti Spíritus. He set the bus afire and killed some of the workers. Then he ambushed an army vehicle driving by, murdering its occupants.

Pedro González's band would attack somewhere and then he'd immediately split from the rest of the band. He would always go around with only one or two others. That's how he operated. We would capture some members of the band, but González himself always managed to get away.

We pursued him until one Sunday we caught him in what we called an *operación de levante*, a "flush-'em-out operation." We did this when we didn't have enough people for an encirclement. We would take our troops and begin combing the area, until we'd suddenly run into the bandits and they'd have to come into the open and start running. We then knew there were bandits in the area and could estimate how long it would take them to get from here to there. At that point, we could work on putting together an encirclement.

These operations were very important, because we'd manage to keep the bandits on the move, letting us know where they were. Because they were always hiding.

There were times when troops came from Oriente to Las Villas to participate in the operations. In 1963, for example, Compañero Manuel "Tito" Herrera came at the head of a battalion from Oriente. This battalion was armed with FAL light automatic rifles, the most potent gun we had.

Before getting there, the compañeros from Oriente had been told the bandits were just walking around freely in the Escambray. We've gone through forty years of revolution, but back then we were young. We believed if we were sent from Havana to Pinar del Río, then we must be the best, because they were sending us in to resolve the problem. "We're going there to finish

company at the time had forty-five men, and sometimes we'd wind up with thirty or so. It wasn't a company of a hundred. And it's not possible to organize an encirclement with thirty-five or forty-five men. The bandits would just slip through.

The bandits were there, moreover, because they were planning to attack Manicaragua. Imagine how embarrassing it would have been if the bandits were to get into Manicaragua, near our headquarters. I thought they were sticking their tongue out at us. I really did.

Madrid: How many bandits were there? Was it a single group?

Dreke: There were eighteen or nineteen bandits hidden there. They were part of a single band, that of Porfirio Guillén. Tartabul was second in command.

We prepared to launch the operation. With whom? With every compañero who could breathe. We got the cooks together. Rifles for the cooks. Rifles for the teachers. Rifles for everyone, including myself of course. And we headed out. We got there and clashed with the bandits.

We captured almost the entire band, among them Guillén. Tartabul escaped, but we caught up with him later. Three of our compañeros were killed.

It was a staggering blow for the bandits. This was in 1963. It was a moment when they still had some strength. They had been located virtually inside the city itself, since we didn't have the troops to hit them with. They were confident we wouldn't be able

to handle them, that they could attack Manicaragua, firing their rifles, and then flee. They weren't trying to capture it, because to do that they would've had to kill us all. But they were confident they could create trouble in Manicaragua, in the city, and then flee.

Waters: How were the bandits finally defeated?

Dreke: We used different tactics. The encirclements were always done at dawn or in the middle of the night. They couldn't be carried out during the day. You had to march at night in order to surprise the bandits sleeping or eating, or partying, as they did every so often. They would drink a few bottles of rum and we'd surround them sleeping it off.

Above all we marched during bad weather, when it was cold and rainy. Those were the optimal times to operate, since the bandits didn't move. Wherever they got to during the day, they stayed and camped for the night. When they felt secure they would spend two or three days in the same place. Those were moments of maximum opportunity during which a number of members of State Security were able to penetrate the bands. This happened throughout the Escambray.

Later the battalions were mobilized and operational divisions were created.

The LCB battalions didn't operate solely in the Escambray; they moved through various operational zones. We would move a division from one spot to another, to operate in a different area. We would move it toward Sagua; we would move it toward Camagüey, which was a very convulsive region, the Jatibonico region; Sancti Spíritus, where there were many bands, such as the zone Mario Bravo operated in.

¹ Alberto Delgado, a member of Cuban State Security operating on a farm in Maisinicú in the Escambray, had successfully posed as one of the bandits' key contacts. In March 1964 Delgado arranged to get counterrevolutionary leader Julio Emilio Carretero and his band on a boat supposedly transporting them to the United States. But the "American" boat was actually manned by members of the Cuban armed forces, who apprehended the entire band. José "Cheito" León, a bandit leader remaining in the Escambray, figured out Delgado's role in the operation and murdered him on April 29, 1964.

The story is described by José Ramón Fernández in *Making History: Interviews with Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces* (Pathfinder, 1999).

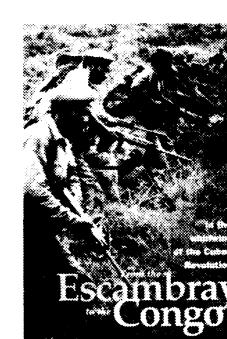
² On July 26, 1965, the rally marking the twelfth anniversary of the Moncada attack was held in Santa Clara, in Las Villas province. The rally was addressed by Fidel Castro, who spoke of the victory over the bandits.

³ In October 1959, working for Cuban State

Security, Santiago pretended to break with the revolution in order to infiltrate the CIA-backed forces. In January 1961 he was killed at sea when his boat was sunk by counterrevolutionary Cuban pirates apparently unaware of his identity. Santiago was heading toward Cuba, where he was to take up a CIA-appointed post as overall head of counterrevolutionary bands in the Escambray.

⁴ In July 1987 Cuban television began broadcasting a series entitled "The CIA's War against Cuba," which revealed the names of 89 CIA agents in Cuba who had been working as accredited U.S. diplomats. To present this information, Cuba publicly identified 27 Cuban State Security personnel who had been functioning within Cuba as double agents for years. Most of them had had to endure being spurned by family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. Following the revelations, the 27 were treated as heroes by the Cuban people.

⁵ The bandit Roberto Tartabul was killed in this raid. Three of his brothers were members of Lucha Contra Bandidos.



NOW AVAILABLE FROM *Pathfinder*

From the Escambray to the Congo

IN THE WHIRLWIND OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

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In his account of how easy it became after the 1959 victory of the Cuban Revolution to "take down the rope" that for decades had segregated blacks from whites at dances in town squares, yet how enormous was the battle to transform the social relations underlying this and all the other "ropes" inherited from colonialism, capitalism, and Yankee domination, Víctor Dreke captures the

historical challenge of our epoch. At the heart of this book lies the willingness, determination, and creative joy with which Cuba's working people have, for more than forty years, defended their revolutionary course against the imperialist bastion to the north.

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'ifles for everyone'

it. We'll solve it." Not everyone thought this way, but many did. The compañeros from Oriente arrived thinking that way.

The first days came and our troops didn't see any bandits, since they were hiding. We prepared an operation to comb the area and flush them out. We deployed the Lucha Contra Banditos battalions from Las Villas, as well as the battalion from Oriente, along the Topes de Collantes highway. That's one of the most mountainous and most difficult areas in the Escambray to comb.

All the compañeros were there. Captain Herrera was at the head of his troops from Oriente. All the people from Las Villas—the Mayaguara Horse and Olaechea—were there too, at the head of their troops. Everyone was marching in single file, mixed in one with another. We combed the area for four days.

What was the result? A number of bandits who had been hiding there heard the noise of the combing operation. Our troops were talking—even though we'd tell them to stop—plus we were using small machetes to clear trails through the undergrowth. Hearing the noise, the bandits fled. They even left their rifles behind.

That operation brought with it an important result—the unity among all the compañeros. There was no more regionalism: "I'm better because I'm from Oriente" or "I'm better because I'm from Las Villas." At moments of danger and struggle, you're not thinking about where you were

dits. He lost his life in the line of duty; they murdered him. But the operation was successful.¹

As the bandits were being eliminated in the Escambray, they were simultaneously being finished off in the rest of the provinces.

At the end a very beautiful rally was held celebrating the elimination of the bandits. I was sorry I wasn't able to be at that celebration, at which our commander in chief spoke.²

How were the bandits eliminated? Through the people's unity, the people's determination. Had we not united, we could not have eliminated them, because they kept on and on.

We crushed the bandits. No doubt about it. There are people who don't like saying we crushed them, but we had to crush them. They were assassins and criminals. We never mistreated anyone; the captured bandits were never beaten or abused. But they were taken to serve their sentences, according to what each had done.

It's important to point out the work of many compañeros who pretended to be bandits for a time but who were compañeros from State Security who had infiltrated them. Like Alberto Delgado, "the Man of Maisinicú," and other compañeros who were killed.

Or take the case of Commander Tony Santiago—the same one I fought under during the revolutionary war. He had infiltrated



Granma
As the revolution grew stronger working people were able to eliminate the counter-revolutionaries. "The aid the bandits got from abroad, from the U.S. government, was essential to their murderous conduct and length of time they were able to survive."

born; you're thinking that the person beside you is your brother. And you don't care where he's from, only that he's another revolutionary.

Through these actions, our combatants developed a sense of identity. We were LCBers. The members of Lucha Contra Banditos considered ourselves a single group. You still see it today. The ones who are alive still say, "I'm an LCBer."

Anyway, as we grew stronger, the hour came to eliminate the bandits everywhere.

Waters: What year was this?

Dreke: In 1964 and 1965. The bandits were eliminated by 1965. I was not in Cuba when they were finally finished off. I had left for the Congo.

But I participated in one of the last operations, as I recall. We captured Mario Bravo, one of the worst bandits, who operated in the Camagüey region, on the border between Sancti Spíritus and Ciego de Ávila.

The conditions were being created to take the final step of eliminating the bandits.

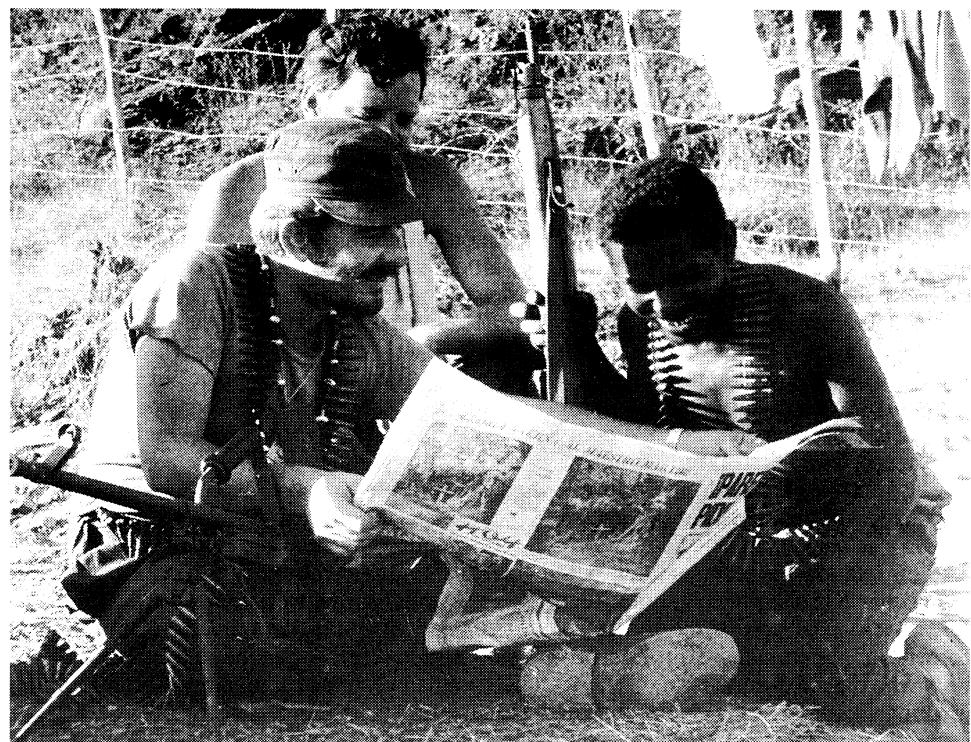
State Security had planned an operation to get one of the last groups out of the country and capture them at sea. A ruse was worked out: the bandits thought they were heading to the United States, when they were actually heading straight to jail. The story is told in the movie *The Man of Maisinicú*, a reference to Alberto Delgado. This compañero was a member of State Security who had infiltrated a group of ban-

the counterrevolutionary organizations and was an agent for a long time. As far as almost everyone was concerned, he was an enemy who had left Cuba. But he was a compañero from State Security who was carrying out a mission. And they killed him.³

Many of these compañeros faced rejection. Not even your father or mother or your wife knew anything. You couldn't even hint at the truth, because your life and the mission were on the line. People didn't know these compañeros were secretly working for State Security. You can imagine how happy these families and others were when they found out the truth.⁴

The job done by the political workers was another important factor in the struggle against the bandits. These compañeros had a big responsibility. Because in addition to combing the woods with a rifle like we had to do, they had the painful and bitter mission of giving a mother the news her son was dead.

One night a compañero was killed who was one of the youngest of our fighters. That day had been his fourteenth birthday. Earlier that day, or the day before, he had been wounded, and he died on his birthday. The family was waiting at home, hoping he'd been given a leave. And the compañeros had to take the body of the young boy to them. It was terrible to see this. Terrible.



Bohemia
Militia members in the Escambray. The struggle to defeat the counterrevolutionary bands strengthened working-class solidarity. "At moments of danger, you're not thinking about where you were born; you're thinking that the person beside you is your brother. And you don't care where he's from, only that he's another revolutionary."

There were occasions when compañeros had to bring information to parents and families who were not revolutionaries. That's also true.

Then there was the case of Tartabul. This had a big impact on me personally. As I mentioned earlier, Tartabul had managed to escape the encirclement, the sweep of the area in Manicaragua, against Guillén's band. Tartabul was from Cumanayagua, and his brother was the head of one of our LCB companies.

On the day of the final operation against Tartabul I told his brother, "Look, don't you go," because I knew his brother was there.

"I have to go on the operation," he replied.

"Don't go on the operation. Stay away."

"No, I have to go on the operation." He insisted.

I don't want to give a false picture. He didn't actually come up against his brother face to face. But he wanted to participate in the operation. His mother was a revolutionary, a black woman who didn't understand why her son was with the bandits and not with the rest of the family, who were all revolutionaries.⁵

Madrid: What enabled the bandits to keep functioning? How were they supplied? Who paid them?

Dreke: The bandits were able to function because of the support they received from U.S. imperialism. There's no doubt about that. We don't say it for propaganda purposes, but because it's the truth.

For one thing, their weapons came from the United States. During the first stage the bandits had a large quantity of weapons—.30 caliber machine guns, and every other type of weapon. We have photos of the weapons they used. These weapons were

directly supplied by the Americans. Many were seized, but others remained hidden.

Madrid: Were they sent by air?

Dreke: By air and by sea. A large quantity of weapons came in by sea along the coast extending from Corralillo through Sagua la Chica.

At that time, unbeknown to us, the head of our navy in the Sagua la Grande region, Lt. Ramos, was a traitor. One of his responsibilities was patrolling the coast in that area. And he simply didn't do it, so that weapons could be delivered to the counterrevolutionaries. Ramos eventually took a speedboat and fled Cuba.

Large quantities of weapons were also delivered by air.

The money used by the bandits was sent by the Americans, too. Much of it was sent by way of the counterrevolutionary groups in Cuba that were United States puppets.

They had cadres. They would pull people out of Cuba for training. They had a counterrevolutionary organization inside the country, and a counterrevolutionary organization abroad led by the CIA. Some of these people—such as Evelio Duque, César Páez, Ramón Quesada, and others—fled during the first clean-up in 1960 and 1961. They were able to escape and leave the country. Others remained in Cuba.

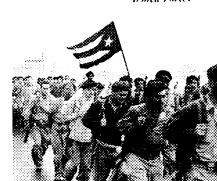
This didn't just happen in the Escambray. The same thing happened in Camagüey. There were clandestine shipments of weapons through Nuevitas. They could do this because during the first years of the revolution, we really didn't have a navy; it consisted of two small boats.

So the aid the bandits got from abroad, from the U.S. government, was essential to their murderous course of conduct and the length of time they were able to survive.

FROM Pathfinder

Making HISTORY

Interviews with four generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces



Making History: Interviews with Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces

On January 1, 1959, men and women of Cuba in their millions ceased being simply the objects of history. They became its makers as well. By their actions they opened the door to the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

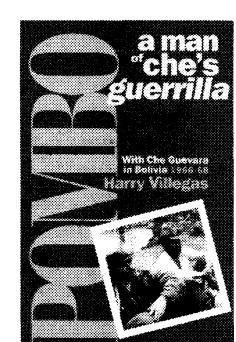
The human beings who fought to accomplish that feat were ordinary working people. Most were still in their teens or early twenties when they began. Who they were, where they came from, and the experiences that transformed them are the subject of these interviews with Néstor López Cuba, Enrique Carreras, José Ramón Fernández, and Harry Villegas. Edited and with introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. \$15.95

Pombo: A Man of Che's guerrilla

With Che Guevara in Bolivia, 1966–68

Harry Villegas

A never-before-published story of the 1966–68 revolutionary campaign in Bolivia led by Ernesto Che Guevara. This is the diary and account of Pombo—a fighter still in his 20s who was a member of Guevara's general staff. Villegas, known by his nom de guerre, Pombo, is today a brigadier general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. \$21.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

U.S. rulers' assault

Continued from front page
single lead."

To facilitate the hunt for visa overstayers Bush stated plans to increase funds for the INS and double the number of its agents. After touring the Coast Guard cutter *Tahoma* in South Portland, Maine, he also announced January 25 a proposal to develop a national tracking system to monitor the arrival and departure of noncitizens at U.S. airports, ports, and Canadian and Mexican border crossings. The budget increase for the INS would largely be used for computer systems to keep a list of the more than 30 million visas issued in the country each year. A computer network to track foreign students, which was approved by the U.S. Congress six years ago, will be online next year.

The INS has also established a new Bureau of Immigration Enforcement that will oversee border patrols, investigations, and spying operations as part of the projected crackdown on an estimated 3 million immigrants who have expired visas.

In making these moves the U.S. rulers are cognizant of the fact that many of those who do not have their papers all in order are working people, employed across the country in factories, mills, field jobs, restaurants, and many other industries. They have increasingly joined struggles for workers' rights, led union organizing drives, and fought attempts to criminalize and dehumanize sections of the working class.

In the effort to tighten border restrictions, Bush said the budget he plans to present to Congress February 4 will include funds for 800 additional customs agents, as well as the Coast Guard's largest annual funding increase in history, the *Washington Post* reported. Coast Guard officials said some of the additional money would also be used for maritime "SWAT teams" and sea marshals.

Rulers meet resistance

Despite its attempts to press full steam ahead targeting workers' rights, the U.S. rulers have been encountering growing resistance to their attacks. For example, 300 people rallied on Martin Luther King Day in Jersey City and Paterson, New Jersey, to protest the detention of more than 350 Arab and South Asian immigrants. They are being held in county jails with no charges against them after being rounded up as part of Washington's "anti-terror" campaign.

Protesters in Paterson shouted, "INS, FBI, No more kidnaps, no more lies!" while marching in front of the Passaic County jail. Among the demands raised by the demonstrators were the repeal of the USA Patriot Act, release of detainees being held for im-

Rebels shoot down U.S. helicopter, Colombian military destroys it

The *Wall Street Journal* carried the following news item in a column on January 25:

"Colombia's military destroyed a U.S. government helicopter to keep it from falling into the hands of leftist rebels who forced the aircraft down during an anti-drug mission last week, U.S. officials said. Five Colombian police officers died while trying to protect the downed aircraft, and three Colombian army soldiers were wounded. The helicopter belonged to the U.S. State Department but didn't have Americans on board when it took ground fire from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, last Friday. The policemen 'were killed while securing the perimeter to rescue the crew of the downed helicopter,' a U.S. Embassy official said in Bogotá. The helicopter's crew, including a Peruvian pilot working for DynCorp., a Reston, Virginia, company contracted by the U.S. government as part of the anti-drug-war effort, was evacuated unharmed. Although no U.S. citizens participated directly in the fighting, some were close to the action, a Colombian official said."

Dyn-Corp and other similar companies "contracted by the U.S. government," are often fronts for CIA and Special Forces operations in areas where Washington says it has no troops involved in combat operations.

Readers of the well-crafted *Journal* article may appreciate how the author deftly avoids using words indicating that there was fighting between the FARC and Colombian forces, that the helicopter was shot down by the FARC, or that government cops and troops were killed and wounded by rebel fire.

migration violations, release of their names, and immediate access for inmates to legal information and representation.

Assault helicopters for 'war at home'

In the wake of the events on September 11 Washington has stepped up the militarization of the United States with some 8,000 National Guardsmen deployed at airports across the country. The White House Office of Homeland Security said the February 3 Super Bowl in New Orleans will be given special security status, complete with SWAT teams and National Guard troops patrolling inside and outside the stadium. Fighter jets and military attack helicopters will patrol the skies. And to make all the football fans feel safer, military experts are also considering equipping security forces with portable antiaircraft missile launchers.

Not to be outdone on homeland defense, Connecticut governor John Rowland announced January 24 that the state's National Guard had acquired three of eight promised Black Hawk helicopters from the federal government.

Under the guise of preventing "future terrorist attacks," Bush said spending for "homeland defense" would include an additional \$3.5 billion to provide training and equipment for more than 550,000 cops in cities across country. "We will hire an additional 300 FBI agents to help fight the war on terror," he added.

Military command at home

The government has increased the number of sky marshals and deployed hundreds of Coast Guard cutters and aircraft to patrol ports. The U.S. Air Force Reserve has also flown more than 800 combat air patrols over Washington, New York, and more than two dozen other cities.

Washington is taking further steps to establish a domestic military command in preparation for the use of U.S. troops against workers and farmers inside its borders. An article in the January 27 *Washington Post* reported on White House plans to give a four-star general authority over domestic deployments such as Air Force jets patrolling skies above U.S. cities, Navy ships running coastal checks, and Army National Guard troops policing airports and border crossings.

"This particular review will go ahead and establish the command," said an unnamed Defense Department official. "And then we will lay out a series of considerations over the course of the next several months to make it all happen."

Meanwhile, government officials in New York City have created new counterterrorism and intelligence posts. The intelligence commissioner will have officers assigned to every precinct in the city and be in charge of "investigating terrorism, international crime, drug trafficking and money laundering," the *New York Times* reported. The intelligence division will also share information with the CIA, FBI, and other cop agencies around the country and the world.

David Cohen, who spent 35 years as a top CIA official, has taken the job of the city's deputy commissioner of intelligence. Cohen oversaw Washington's espionage around the globe during his stint as CIA director of operations. He said he intended to ensure "strong intelligence"—meaning spying operations—in New York.

CIA broadens domestic spying

Also under the banner of fighting the "war on terrorism," the U.S. Congress has now given the CIA broader powers, including new legal authority to snoop on U.S. residents, and has granted billions of dollars to go along with this new arrangement. The spy agency can also now obtain private records of institutions and corporations seized under federal court-approved searches. It can read secret grand jury testimony without prior approval from a judge. Legislation is currently being discussed in Congress that would allow the CIA to intercept e-mail messages sent to the United States from abroad, without requiring the agency to obtain a warrant.

At the same time, the CIA has begun shifting spies from overseas to domestic stations. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the CIA shut down an office in Germany that monitored Iranians and relocated some of the staff to Los Angeles, which has the largest Iranian population of any city outside Iran.

Another example of moves by city and state governments across the country to put



Connecticut governor John Rowland announces state budget plans January 24 that include the acquisition of three new Black Hawk helicopters from the federal government as part of the state's "domestic security plan."

in place repressive measures to curtail workers' rights is a package of antiterrorism bills promoted by Maryland governor Parris Glendening. The legislation provides more wiretapping authority for cops to spy on telephone conversations. The bills also create a 15-member state security council that broadens emergency powers of the governor, including authorization to confine people to their homes or neighborhoods under the pretext of a chemical or biological attack, such as the recent anthrax scare incidents.

More wars after Afghanistan

"The fight against terrorism will not end in Afghanistan," Bush told a meeting of the Reserve Officers Association the day before speaking at the mayors conference.

He said that the military budget for the next year "will be the largest increase in defense spending in the last 20 years" and noted that the additional expenditures would go toward more precision weapons, missile defenses, high-tech battlefield equipment, and unmanned aircraft—equipment that has proven effective for Washington in its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Congress has already allocated \$328 billion for military spending for the current fiscal year. According to the *New York Times*, Pentagon officials said some of the additional funds would be allocated for more tanks, warships, and fighter jets. The additional funds would bolster even more Washington's military edge over its imperialist rivals in Europe and Japan.

Highlighting the war against Afghanistan, Bush declared his intention to use military force to assert Washington's imperial prerogatives around the world. "We've totally destroyed the [Afghanistan] government," he boasted. "We said, if you hide a terrorist...you're just as guilty as the terrorists, and we will hold you accountable, as the Taliban has found out."

Repressive measures set up by Clinton

The Bush administration's bipartisan course of waging more wars abroad, further steps toward militarization of United States, and establishing repressive measures initially targeting immigrants and ultimately all workers is being built on the groundwork prepared by the Clinton administration. During years the great liberal was in office he engineered an increase of 100,000 more cops on the streets, while the U.S. prison population doubled to 2 million inmates.

During those years the U.S. ruling class escalated its assaults on immigrant workers, with the INS, now the largest federal cop agency, deploying some 15,000 armed agents, and stepping up factory raids and deportations to record numbers. Nearly 300,000 immigrants were deported from 1997-99.

The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act and the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, both of which Clinton signed into law in 1996, expanded the powers of the INS to seize and deport undocumented immigrants without the right to judicial review or appeal. The laws authorized the INS to jail noncitizens based on "secret evidence" without bail in detention centers. Some two dozen people already had been imprisoned based on secret evidence, long before the September 11 World Trade Center attacks.

In early 1999 Clinton called for spending \$2.8 billion to establish a domestic military command. Several months later the Pentagon announced that it was changing its com-

mand structure to include for the first time the training of military forces for domestic use. The move was justified as an antiterrorism measure, but it laid the basis to use U.S. armed forces against the struggles of workers and farmers in this country.

Bush threatens Iran, Iraq, and Korea in address to Congress

Proclaiming that "our war against terror is only beginning," President George Bush targeted Iran, Iraq, and north Korea for belligerent threats in his January 29 State of the Union address before Congress. He said that the three countries "constitute an axis of evil" and "pose a grave and growing danger."

The U.S. president pointed to Washington's "most visible military action" in Afghanistan as the harbinger for the course of U.S. imperialism in the world, describing his dispatch of U.S. troops to the Philippines and threats against Somalia, where U.S. warships patrol the coastal waters.

Over the past several weeks Washington has stepped up propaganda against Tehran. Bush claims the Iranian government "exports terror" while repressing the Iranian people. A few weeks before his State of the Union speech he said the U.S. government "will take action against Tehran" if he deems it is trying to foster instability in Afghanistan.

The U.S. capitalists have never reconciled themselves to the overthrow of the shah of Iran in 1979, when a massive revolutionary upheaval of oil workers, peasants, and other working people toppled the U.S.-backed regime. This uprising dealt a blow to one of Washington's pro-imperialist pillars in the region and the U.S. government has sought to push back the gains of the Iranian toilers ever since.

In his speech Bush accused the north Korean government of "arming with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while starving its citizens." Washington maintains military pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which refuses to bow to U.S. imperialist dictates.

Coming out of World War II workers and peasants on the Korean peninsula mobilized in a revolutionary struggle that led to the overturn of capitalist property relations, including a deep-going land reform, nationalization of industry, and other social measures in the north. In response, the U.S. rulers waged a bloody war against the Korean people from 1950 to 1953, resulting in the deaths of more than 3 million Koreans and the destruction of cities, factories, and mines as a result of Washington's saturation bombings.

The war ended in a defeat for U.S. imperialism, which failed to crush the workers state in the north. Today Washington maintains Korea as a divided nation, with its 37,000 occupation troops, nuclear missiles, and a naval force based in south Korea.

Before the joint session of Congress, Bush declared that "Iraq continues...to support terror," although so far the U.S. rulers have been unable to produce any evidence linking Baghdad with the events on September 11. Bush's threats against Iraq register the fact that Washington has not given up on trying to attain what it failed to do in the 1990-91 Gulf War: the overthrow of the Iraqi government and the installation of a protectorate to do its bidding and act as a gendarme against the struggles of the Arab masses. —M.W.

Australian gov't brutalizes immigrants

Continued from front page

camp, where the largest number of long-term detainees are held. Reporters were passed a handwritten statement from seven hunger strikers which said: "Now more than 370 people have refused to eat.... Woomera is a hell hole; refugees are treated as animals."

There have been ongoing protests at all the detention centers, including mass breakouts in June 2000. Tear gas, water cannon, and other riot gear have been used frequently by the guards against protesters. On December 17 and 18 last year, protests climaxed with refugees setting fire to 21 buildings and huts at Woomera. An escape attempt was suppressed by guards.

Suicide attempts are commonplace by some inmates, depressed and maddened by months and even years of imprisonment in these detention camps. Toward the end of the hunger strike, 11 teenagers at Woomera made a suicide pact, threatening to kill themselves if they were not released. Other desperate acts have included people sewing their lips together. In the latest protests, up to 35 hunger strikers at Woomera, including teenagers, stitched their mouths. This is often done with a single stitch to the side of the mouth, symbolizing Canberra's attempts to stifle their voices.

Attempts to demonize refugees

As part of his ongoing efforts to demonize the refugees in the eyes of other working people, Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock, without a shred of evidence, claimed that parents forced this painful protest on their children. Jalil, a 21-year-old Iranian held for a year, said immigration officials lied in blaming the parents. "Nobody would stitch their child's mouth. The children who are doing it are between 10 and 15 years old. They see their family doing it, so they do it," he said.

Others at Woomera ingested a cocktail of detergent or shampoo and paracetamol. Six were hospitalized. The January protests rapidly spread to other detention camps around the country.

At Port Hedland in the remote northwest of the continent, 17 detainees went on a hunger strike while protesters marched outside. At Curtin, four detainees joined the hunger strike, and six were hospitalized. At Maribyrnong in Melbourne, 22 detainees refused food, while 300 protesters gathered in support outside.

At the Sydney rally, a live mobile phone hookup with an Iranian detainee inside Villawood was translated to the crowd. He asked, "Why are we being treated like criminals?" Sister Susan Connelly of the Sisters of St. Joseph said it was important to challenge the ideas of "Pauline Hanson and her puppets." Hanson, the former head of the rightist One Nation Party, is a prominent anti-immigrant politician. Denny Faddoul, New South Wales President of the National Union of Students, pointed out that "nothing has changed since the White Australia Policy" and that Australia is "the only country on earth that locks up asylum-seekers." He labeled the government's actions "a disgrace." The White Australia Policy was aimed at administering immigration laws to ensure that non-Europeans were not admitted to the country.

Frustration at bureaucratic delays in the processing of visas boiled over when the Immigration Minister, Philip Ruddock, told the media there would be a freeze on the work as punishment for the December fire protests. Government spokespersons also said that Afghan people would have to return home now that the war to replace the Taliban regime is over.

Prime Minister John Howard has accused the hunger strikers of trying to "morally intimidate" his government. During the election campaign last year, in the midst of the war on Afghanistan, Howard, with thinly veiled racism, had smeared asylum seekers as possible terrorists. Howard and Ruddock have continually stood reality on its head, painting those on the receiving end of their government's inhuman policies as the criminals.

The issue is the most polarized in Australian politics but the ground has begun to shift. As the detainees have stood up for their dignity, gathering support from outside, and as international condemnation grows, numbers of prominent figures have taken their distance from Howard's intransigent line. In an embarrassment for the government, Neville Roach resigned in the midst of the

hunger strike as chairman of the Council for Multicultural Australia, saying that Canberra was inflaming prejudice, not only against refugees, but against all those of Middle Eastern appearance.

The refugees suffer constant taunts to "go home," harassment and brutalization by center guards who call their rubber-coated batons "black Panadol"—a reference to a common painkilling drug. A government ombudsman concluded that the detained refugees have fewer rights than convicted criminals and that the guards, employed by a private company, were less accountable than prison wardens. They have the "right" to strip-search anyone older than 10.

Polarization over detentions

As the Sydney protesters marched through neighborhood streets to the detention center on January 27, some onlookers jeered and others cheered, reflecting the

sharp polarization over the issue.

One young wharfie (dockworker) who has worked for three years at Patrick, Port Botany, voiced a common sentiment when he told this correspondent that "if the refugees are allowed to just come in, we will all be working for \$2 an hour." Other workers have reacted against the inhumanity of the government. Paul Keating, 34, also a wharfie at Patrick for two years and a member of the Labor Party, said, "We're talking about human rights and decency here. These people are coming from a desperate situation but they've been demonized."

The new Labor opposition leader, Simon Crean, broke his silence on the issue after two weeks, trying to keep up bipartisan support for the government on "border protection" while criticizing Howard's breach of bipartisanship on "multiculturalism." Crean offered belated "compassion" for "innocent children behind razor wire," proposing that

children and mothers be released into the community.

It was a Labor government that introduced mandatory detention of refugees without papers. For two-thirds of the 20th century, the White Australia policy was inscribed in Labor's platform. Only in the 1970s and '80s did this change to support for "multiculturalism." Like the party as a whole, Labor's frontbench is divided over the issue.

A national protest has been called for February 12 for the opening session outside Parliament House in Canberra, with wide endorsement from former detainees and refugee rights, church, community, and political organizations.

Ron Poulsen is a member of the Maritime Union of Australia. Joanne Kuniansky, a member of the Australasian Meat Employers Union, contributed to this article.

Bosses seek to topple Chávez government

BY RÓGER CALERO

Political polarization in Venezuela is deepening as the employers extend their reactionary drive against the government of President Hugo Chávez. The latest action occurred on January 23, when the main employers association organized a march of 70,000 people. Six weeks earlier the bosses had organized a one-day strike to oppose a series of government measures. The action shut down 85 percent of the country's businesses and industries.

The antigovernment demonstrators marched in the streets of Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, banging pots and carrying coffins symbolizing the end of the regime. The actions have received the support of officials of the main trade union federation, the Venezuelan Workers' Confederation, which is aligned with the capitalist opposition Democratic Action Party. The same day some 30,000 government supporters—mostly working people—marched in response to the bosses' action.

El Universal, a Venezuelan daily, described the protesters' "main banner" as "the defense of citizens' rights, public freedoms, and the rescue of the fundamental principles of democracy"—allegedly threatened by Chávez's attitude towards the press and other institutions.

The demand by the wealthy capitalists and landowners for Chávez to step down is ultimately aimed at workers and peasants. Wealthy capitalists and landowners have bridled at a land reform law proposed by Chávez. The act allows the government to take over privately owned idle land and hand it to peasants to farm. Another measure opposed by capitalists and the imperialists increases the royalties paid by private-sector oil companies.

Pedro Carmosa Estanga, president of the big-business federation Fedecámaras, said on January 29 that, given the critical political and economic situation in the country, the federation "has decided to declare itself on permanent watch, and is willing to act in a belligerent manner if necessary."

The big-business media has been on a campaign to condemn Chávez for his "authoritarian" government style and his abuse of executive powers, threatening Venezuela's "democratic traditions." The newspaper owners have also blamed the president's "tone of discourse" for inciting attacks against government opponents and the media. At a January 21 rally, the Venezuelan president asked supporters not to attack press reporters, saying that the argument was with the media owners.

Two weeks before, hundreds of demonstrators had surrounded the building of the opposition daily *El Nacional*, after its editors ran a piece titled, "Dictator without a mask." News articles reported that the demonstrators carried signs saying, "We ask the media to publish the truth" and—in reference to the newspaper owners' campaign—"Why do they lie?"

Washington has backed the anti-Chávez drive and has expressed its uneasiness at the new package of measures directed at the oil companies. A January 12 *Financial Times* article stated that Washington has abandoned the "concept of responding to Mr. Chávez according to what he does, rather than what he says...and is now trying to figure out how to deal with a 'rogue democracy.'"



Above, Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez joined some 30,000 supporters, mostly workers, in demonstration January 23, in response to antigovernment action called by the country's employers association with the support of the officialdom of the main trade union federation. Two weeks before, the bosses organized a one-day strike that shut down 85 percent of the country's businesses and industries to oppose a series of government measures. The Venezuelan rulers are extending their reactionary drive against the Chávez regime and are openly encouraging fissures between Chávez and the military. At right, demonstrators in front of military base in Caracas carry signs saying, "If you are not with Venezuela, who are you with?"

Chávez, who led a failed coup in 1992 against the discredited government of Carlos Andrés Pérez, came to power in 1998 in the midst of an acute social crisis. In spite of its status as one of the world's largest oil exporters, half the workforce was unemployed or underemployed, and 70 percent of the country's 21 million people were living below the poverty line.

Chávez won a hearing by claiming to champion the rights of the poor. Using anti-corruption demagogic, he presented himself as a strong leader from outside the establishment who would take decisive action to fix these problems.

He promised to bring stability and to improve the lives of workers and peasants, while defending the Venezuelan nation—capitalists and workers alike. He took a nationalist stand, evoking the figure of Simón Bolívar, a Venezuelan national hero and a prominent leader of the anticolonial struggle in Latin America in the early 19th century.

Hard-hit by low world market prices for oil, which accounts for half the government revenue and a third of economic output, the Venezuelan economy registered a 2.7 percent growth last year, well below both government projections and the 3.2 percent

growth recorded in 2000. Bank reserves shrank by 25 percent in the year.

The relatively low turnout at the pro-government rally on January 23 parallels opinion polls that show declining support for the Chávez government. The employers are openly encouraging fissures between Chávez and the military.

Following the antigovernment demonstration, Chávez replaced several cabinet members, appointing naval captain Ramón Rodríguez Chacín, one of the officers who participated in his failed 1992 coup, as Interior Minister.

Chávez moved Adina Bastidas from deputy vice president to minister of trade and industry. Expressing the judgment of the capitalist rulers, the *Financial Times* of London quoted Venezuelan "political analyst" Aníbal Romero, who complained: "You would find it hard to think of a more inadequate appointment. She's an enemy of private enterprise and intensely dislikes the culture of capitalism."

Opposition groups have announced that the protests will continue in February. Already actions have been called to coincide with a march to be led by Chávez at the beginning of next month.

West Coast marchers oppose intervention of U.S. in Philippines

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD

SAN FRANCISCO—Chanting, "No Justice! No Peace! U.S. Out of the Philippines!" and "What do we want? Justice not War. When do we want it? Now! Even more!" a spirited crowd of 150 people marched through the streets of San Francisco January 24 to protest Washington's decision to send U.S. troops to the Philippines.

Many of the participants were of Filipino origin, the majority were young. Signs read, "Philippines not for sale," and "U.S. troops terrorize the Filipino people."

The march was initiated by the Filipinos For Global Justice Not War Coalition, and endorsed by, among others, Bayan International, Gabriela Network, Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, Filipinos for Affirmative Action, Filipino Workers Association, and Anakbayan. In a written statement inviting people to participate in this protest, the coalition explained the U.S. government "has announced the next site of its Terror War...the Philippines' southern island of Mindanao. More than 1,000 armed U.S. troops will be marching on Filipino soil in a war that the Filipino people oppose with regular mass protests all over the nation," it said.

Rhonda Ramiro, from the Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, said she is "outraged that the U.S. military is back

in our land. For 100 years they've occupied our country," she said. This "is an attack on the sovereignty of our people and we will fight against it." Tony Segarra, a participant in the march and a member of the Filipino Workers Association, told the *Militant* that "the war is not a solution for the world economic crisis. It doesn't work that way. History says that military solutions will just create more problems."

One other issue that was raised at the protest was the loss of jobs for airport screeners who are Filipinos. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act, which was signed by President George Bush November 19, made the 28,000 screeners federal employees, increased the scrutiny of passengers and luggage, put air marshals on the planes, and required screeners to be U.S. citizens within a year.

It is estimated that about one-fourth of all workers currently holding screening jobs are non-citizens. In San Francisco, 80 percent of the 800 screeners are noncitizens and in Los Angeles the number is around 40 percent of the 1,000 screeners.

This law "singles out noncitizen people,"



Above: *Militant*/Shirley Peña

Above: Young Filipinos lead march in San Francisco against U.S. intervention. Left: protest in Manila condemns government complicity with Washington.

armed forces to fight U.S. wars" without being a citizen, she added.

A suit seeking to overturn the provision requiring screeners to be citizens was filed by lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Service Employees International Union in federal court. They argue that the citizenship requirement is a violation of the constitutional right to equal protection.

Jeimy Gebin, the lead plaintiff, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "The craziest part is that if I get fired, I can go enroll in the National Guard and be back in the airport, with a gun...standing behind the screeners."

One of the many speakers at the rally held in front of the Filipino consulate at the end of the march invited people to come to a meeting to protest the firing of an airport screener for her involvement in challenging the mistreatment of many Filipino co-workers at one of the terminals.

Another protest has been called for February 5 to mark the 103rd anniversary of the start of the Filipino-American War.

Rollande Girard is a garment worker.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Why the Ruling Class Needs the Death Penalty, Why Working People Need to End It. Speaker: Deborah Liatos, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

The Truth Behind the 1993 U.S. Invasion of Somalia and the Working-Class View of 'Black Hawk Down.' Speaker: Bill Kalman, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. 3926 Mission St. Donation: \$5. Tel: (415) 584-2135.

FLORIDA

Miami

Behind the Recent Assault on Parliament in Haiti. For Immediate Release of Haitian Refugees Held at Krome Immigration Detention Center. Speakers: Tony Jeanthenour, Veye Yo; Eric Simpson, Socialist Workers Party, meat packer. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Reception at 6:30 p.m. 8365 NE 2nd Ave., 2nd Floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (305) 751-7076.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

What's Behind the Implosion of Enron? What It Reveals about the Illusions of Lifetime Benefits for Working People. Fri., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. 506 Springfield Ave., 3rd Floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (973) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

U.S. Military Out of the Philippines. Speaker: Olympia Newton, Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists. 372A 53rd St. (at 4th Ave.) Donation: \$5. (718) 567-8014.

Garment District

The Afghan Occupation: The U.S. Prepares for Future Wars. Speaker: Brian Williams, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. 545 8th Avenue 14th Floor. Donation: \$4. (212) 695-7358.

Upper Manhattan

The 1951 Waterfront Lockout in New Zealand. Fifty Years Ago, Workers Resisted Rulers' Drive to War and Austerity. Featuring *Shattered Dreams*, film in tribute to waterside workers and their allies. Speaker: Patrick O'Neill, *Militant* correspondent. Fri., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. 599 W. 187th Street, 2nd Floor. Donation: \$5. Tel: (212) 740-4611

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Revolutionary Legacy of Malcolm X. Excerpts from documentary on life of Malcolm X, discussion. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 4208 W. Vernor. Tel: (313) 554-0504.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

U.S. Out of the Philippines! Fri., Feb. 8, 7:00 p.m. 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Suggested donation: \$3. Tel: (09) 276-8885.

Christchurch

Do U.S. Rulers Aid the Struggle of Afghan Women? Fri., Feb. 8, 7:00 p.m. Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Suggested donation: \$3.

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, *Nueva Internacional* and *Ny International*.

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MICHIGAN: Detroit: 4208 W. Vernor St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 441580

Tel: (03) 365-6055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Stop Canberra's Brutal Attacks on Refugees! Open the Border, Close the Camps! Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Communist League and member, Maritime Union of Australia. Sun., Feb. 10, 4:00 p.m. 1st floor, 3/281-3 Beamish St., Campsie. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9718-0197.

CANADA

Vancouver

The Occupation of Afghanistan—Part of Accelerated Assault on Workers' Rights. Speaker: Betty Brown, Communist League. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. #202D-4806 Main Street. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Zip: 48244. Tel: (313) 554-0504. E-mail: 104127.3505@compuserve.com

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CALENDAR

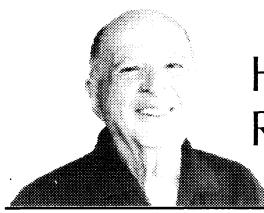
PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Cuba in Today's World: from Camp X-Ray to the Miami Five. Speakers: Jose Luis Noa and Oscar Redondo (First Secretary) of the Cuban Interests Section. Wed., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. Reception at 7:00 p.m. University of Pennsylvania, Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street. Tel: (917) 971-3284.

GREAT SOCIETY

They'll hire judges directly?—Delaware's top judge said he has created a task force to study using corporations' and other donations



Harry
Ring

to help pay for the state courts."—*Delaware News Journal*.

Let the workers take the rap—The agriculture department is press-

ing ahead with an "experimental" inspection program to spot contaminated and bruised chickens. Company employees inspect the poultry and the federal inspectors inspect the inspectors. At five of 11 chicken plants, a Congressional committee found more contamination than previously.

Chainsaw needed oil—Albert "Chainsaw" Dunlop (he gained the title by his ruthless capacity to slash payrolls of troubled companies) is ready to cough up \$15 million to shareholders at bankrupt Sunbeam appliances where he cooked the books to conceal losses. Earlier, a damage payment to Sunbeam shareholders of \$110 million was

agreed to by the company's auditor—the Andersen accounting firm that won headlines by shredding Enron records.

Note to Mr. D—If Dunlop can fake Canadian residency, he's eligible to share cash being dispensed by Canada's Dunlop Tire. To promote their brand name, the company set up a \$25,000 fund to be divided equally among all Canadians named Dunlop who legally change their names to "Dunlop Tire." How about an "Albert Chainsaw Dunlop Tire."

Pst—Ex vice prez Gore was the keynote speaker at a New Delhi, India, conference sponsored by the

magazine, *India Today*. He spoke on the condition that the press be kept out. Later, participants confided to reporters that Gore confided to them he supported the U.S. war against Afghanistan. He also urged that India take further steps to allow foreign investments.

Nervous?—After completing an internal auditing of company books, Homestore.com booted seven employees.

Sweet—The Los Angeles city council voted to continue a \$3,500 a month housing allowance for David Wiggins, the top dog at the Department of Water and Power. That's in addition to his annual

wage of \$284,000. The housing perk was initially granted when Wiggins relocated to Los Angeles to take the job on a temporary basis.

How delicate—A 3,000 gallon spill of raw human sewage hit Little Corona Beach in the Orange County, California, coastline. It was the second such mishap in January. A delicately worded press release ruled the area off-limits until it was no longer "tainted."

Thought for the week—"Companies come and go. It's part of the genius of capitalism."—Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill musing on the fate of Enron.

Meat packers discuss fight against plant closing

BY BETSEY STERN

CHICAGO—An article in the January 10 issue of *Exitio*, the Spanish-language weekly published by the *Chicago Tribune*, sheds new light on the fight of workers at the American Meatpacking Corporation (AMPAC) here who lost their jobs when the

company closed the plant in November.

The workers were given no warning of the shutdown. AMPAC told them the company did not have to abide by the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, which requires companies to inform employees 60 days in advance of a plant clos-

ing. The bosses at AMPAC claim the law does not apply to them because the plant was closed by an order of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) after inspectors found unsanitary conditions.

In the *Exitio* article, a USDA official is quoted as saying they never ordered the plant closed. According to spokeswoman Carol Blake, the USDA did temporarily revoke AMPAC's license, but when the company submitted a list of actions to improve sanitary conditions at the plant "we were in agreement with the proposals of the company and we were awaiting other measures when...AMPAC decided to close instead of continuing with the process of inspections."

The AMPAC workers are demanding two months severance pay, extension of medical benefits, unpaid vacation pay, and two half-days pay that the company still owes them.

What happened was not an error

At a Militant Labor Forum here January 12, workers discussed the fight at AMPAC as well as other labor struggles in the Chicago area. Rufino Pena, a leader of the fight with 27 years at AMPAC, pointed out: "Human beings commit errors, but what happened here was not an error. What happened was horrible.... We had a right to be notified. We have a right to severance pay. We will keep fighting for the two days pay and also vacation pay."

Silvia Contreras, a worker with 18 months in the plant, spoke of the injustice of telling

workers, "some with 20 or 30 years in the plant, right before the holidays, that all our benefits are cut off." She said many workers, like herself, are in the middle of medical treatments that they now cannot pay for.

Several workers from the Latino Union, which has supported the AMPAC workers in their struggle, spoke at the forum. Jose Landaverde, director of the Latino Union, described struggles of day laborers in Chicago against the abuses of the temporary agencies, a fight that the Latino Union has helped lead. He pointed to efforts by the Latino Union to link up fights of temporary workers with those of permanent employees, giving as an example the case of a strike at Appetizers, where the Latino Union helped organize workers at a temporary agency to refuse work at Appetizers during the strike.

Joel Britton, an AMPAC worker and Socialist Workers Party leader, pointed to the potential for deepening struggles against the "dog-eat-dog system of capitalism whose crimes we are hearing documented tonight." He gave as examples the struggles of workers in Argentina and the push forward given to the class struggle in the United States by the big influx of immigrants in recent years.

Britton cited the USDA spokesperson's statement in *Exitio*, saying this revelation can be taken advantage of by AMPAC workers to seek official UFCW backing for the fight to punish this meat boss for violating the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act.

25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

February 11, 1977

In his "fireside chat" February 2, President Carter called on the American people to "sacrifice," "waste less energy," and turn down our thermostats. He declared that "the energy shortage is permanent" and blamed it on our failure "to take energy conservation seriously."

This is a lie. Working people are not to blame for this crisis and we should not have to pay for it. The heat shortage was deliberately created by the giant energy corporations. They want higher prices and will stop at nothing to get them.

The energy profiteers—Exxon, Texaco, Gulf, Mobil, and a handful of others—shed no tears if factories are closed and millions are thrown out of work. They do not care if schools are shut down.

They care for one thing only: profit.

The energy trust has conspired to curtail production and create an artificial shortage. With their hand on the throttle of natural gas production and shipment, they are holding the entire country hostage in the freezing winter to achieve their goal of higher prices and profits.

Vital information about this crisis is kept secret by the corporations and the government. How much gas is really available? What reserves are untapped? What is the real cost of producing this gas?

Carter piously urged the oil and gas companies to "be honest." But they are not honest! The only way to uncover the truth is to open the records of the energy corporations to public scrutiny so that committees of trade unionists and consumers can examine them.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK N.Y.

FIVE CENTS

February 11, 1952

Little-known facts about American investments in the privately owned Suez Canal Company, which operates the canal for profits, has been disclosed by Washington columnist Robert S. Allen in the Feb. 2 N.Y. Post. "The American stake in this strategic waterway," he says, "is far greater than generally realized."

Allen's information reveals part of the true reasons—which are strictly imperialist—why Washington has been secretly preparing for armed intervention against the Egyptians and has been putting tremendous pressure on Egypt's government to come to terms with British imperialism. Somerville Pinkney Tuck, former U.S. ambassador to Egypt, is one of the directors of the Suez Canal Co.

About one-fourth of the stock of this company is now owned by American citizens.

"More American-owned oil passed through the Canal in 1950 and '51," reports Allen "than that of any other country, including Britain, heretofore the leading oil power in the Middle East."

The Rockefeller-controlled Standard Oil interests are directly behind the threats and economic blackmail Washington has been using on Egypt.

"Only a few hints have leaked out so far," states Allen of the "strenuous U.S. efforts" to beat the Egyptians into line. Allen repeats his previous statement, reported in last week's *Militant*, disclosing that 6,000 U.S. Marines have been ready to move into Egypt "within a few hours."

Members of Black Telephone Workers for Justice lead march in Newark, New Jersey, January 21, demanding that Martin Luther King Day be a paid holiday.

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEWARK, New Jersey—Chanting "What do we want? Martin Luther King Day off as a paid holiday," 125 people marched and rallied in front of the main headquarters of Verizon downtown here on January 21.

The demonstration was organized by the Black Telephone Workers for Justice (BTWFJ), a group formed one year ago. They work at Verizon and are members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 827. The workers are demanding that the company make Martin Luther King's birthday a paid holiday.

At a rally held after the march, Ron Washington, president of the organization, explained that they have been successful in getting the union local to officially support this demand and to fight for it to be in their contract, which expires next year. "We don't just want this as a paid holiday for Verizon workers," he added, "but for all workers."

IBEW Local 827 president Dominic Turdo, who also spoke at the event, said, "I am happy to be invited to speak here. Our local is in full support of making Martin Luther King's birthday a paid holiday."

Hassan Abdus-Sabur, a 28-year-old telephone worker who is vice president of the BTWFJ, told the *Militant*, "The most significant thing is that we got 90 percent of the workers at the two garages where we work to take off." He said some of the union officials carried BTWFJ signs and a few of his co-workers who missed the demonstration told him they planned to participate next year.

Among those participating in the action were nursing home workers, members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). They came with their union banner and one SEIU official spoke at the rally. Larry Adams, president of Mailhandlers Local 300, also spoke on behalf of his union.

Other speakers included representatives from the People's Organization for Progress, the Newark Coalition of Neighborhoods, the Socialist Workers Party, and civil rights attorney Arthur Kinoy.

Nancy Rosenstock is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees.

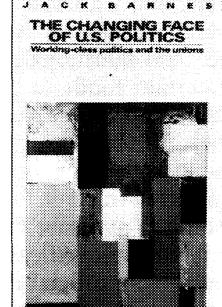
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The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

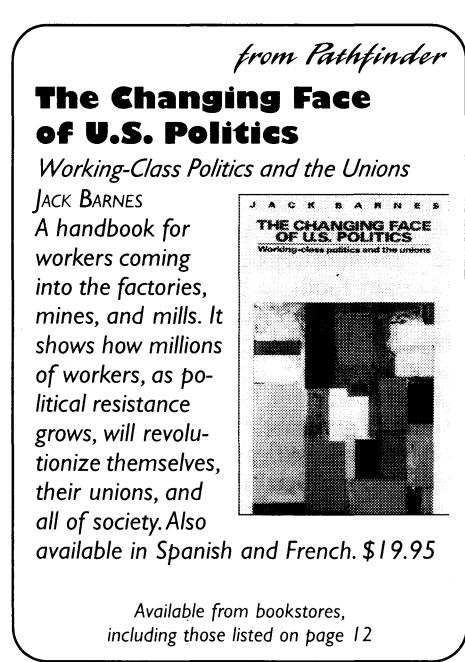
Working-Class Politics and the Unions

JACK BARNES

A handbook for workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills. It shows how millions of workers, as political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all of society. Also available in Spanish and French. \$19.95



Available from bookstores,
including those listed on page 12



Bipartisan ‘two-front war’

In his State of the Union address and in meetings leading up to it, George Bush spelled out the course of the bipartisan “two-front war”: more military assaults on other countries, stepped up repression targeting immigrants, and further moves to strengthen the repressive apparatus of the state, which will be used against the working class in future battles. These steps by the president mark the acceleration of U.S. imperialism’s war against working people since September 11. It builds on—both at home and abroad—what was put in place during the Clinton administration.

Bush took particular aim at north Korea, Iran, and Iraq as “the world’s dangerous regimes.” Washington’s belligerent stance towards north Korea stands out in particular because it is a country in which the revolutionary struggles of the toilers led to the overturn of capitalism and the establishment of a workers state. Workers and farmers there stood up to the massive assault by Washington during the Korean War and have defended their country in the face of massive U.S. firepower ever since. For this, the U.S. imperialists have never forgiven them.

Despite the bipartisan plans about where to go in their war at home and abroad, the U.S. rulers face resistance from toilers around the world.

The employers and their government in Washington have already been running up against opposition to their escalating attacks on immigrants. Strikes, organizing drives, and protests of plant closings like the struggle being waged by meat packers at the American Meat Packing Corporation in Chicago highlight the willingness of the working class to put up a fight. The recent protests in New Jersey against detentions of Arab and South Asian immigrants, fights by Arabs who have been fired for expressing their views on

September 11 and supporting Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation of their land, and mobilizations demanding drivers licenses in California are other examples.

The stakes are high in Bush’s two-front war—a war that is ultimately aimed at workers and farmers throughout the United States. By singling out immigrants for sharp attacks the rulers hope to push back a section of the working-class vanguard, dividing working people and weakening our ability to fight.

The labor movement has an enormous interest in defending workers’ rights that are under attack and taking a stand against the victimization of anyone by the capitalist rulers and those who serve them—whether native or foreign born, or with or without “proper” papers. By taking the moral high ground, working people can deepen the solidarity that is essential in standing up to the employers and their government and defending the basic interests of the working class and its allies.

All workers have an interest in demanding the release of all of Washington’s detainees with no strings attached and opposing the drive by the Bush administration against the millions of workers and others who overstay their visas. We need to demand U.S. imperialism keep its hands off Korea, Iran, and Iraq, and to get every soldier, warplane, ship, and nuclear weapon out of the Korean peninsula.

Organizing to defend workers’ rights at home and abroad prepares the working class for bigger battles, which build the kind of leadership capable of organizing the toilers to take power out of the hands of the warmakers, overturn capitalism, and open up the possibility for the first time to fight to end once and for all the wars, racism, discrimination, and other social evils endemic in the brutalities and dog-eat-dog society capitalism offers.

Australia: Open the borders!

Two weeks of hunger strikes and other protests by hundreds of people seeking asylum in Australia, along with solidarity actions by those who rallied in support, have helped to expose the concentration camp-like conditions of their detention. Through their actions, the protesters claimed the dignity their jailers try to strip them of. They have also forced the government to waver from its previous intransigence, and—among other modest concessions—to once again begin to process asylum applications.

Those in the camps are the “lucky ones” who have managed to reach Australian shores. Canberra enforces a naval blockade, backed up by air force patrols, against ships carrying refugees. Hundreds of people have been transported to camps in Pacific island countries exploited by Australian imperialism. From there, too, they have won support through protests.

Capitalist politicians, from ultrarightist Pauline Hanson to conservative government ministers, have waged a long campaign to vilify the “boat people” and other asylum-seekers. Recently, the campaign has included the slander that they are “potential terrorists.” This demagogic, along with the refugees’ resistance, has helped to fuel the sharpening polarization around the issue.

Thanks to the protests and the spotlight they have shone on the camps, people around the world have received a

glimpse of the brutal, racist, and anti-working-class character of Australian imperialism. Like the other imperialist ruling classes, the Australian rulers plunder the resources of the semicolonial world, including its natural wealth and the labor power of its workers and farmers. Imperialist exploitation and debt bondage has foisted increasingly impossible conditions of unemployment, landlessness, and military aggression upon people of the Third World. Millions are left with little choice but to travel to the imperialist centers in search of work. In doing so, they bring their experiences of struggle into the working class in the destination countries.

Demands raised during the protests for the immediate release of the refugees and the closure of all of Canberra’s detention centers, both inside and outside Australia, deserve the full support of all working people. The immigration laws are designed to divide our ranks and leave layers of workers vulnerable to greater exploitation. They must be opposed. The immigration policy to defend the interests of working people in Australia is not complicated: Open the borders!

The struggle waged by the refugees is a crucial one for the labor movement in Australia. Backing their struggle will strengthen working-class unity against the bosses and their government, who are deepening their drive against the rights of workers and farmers at home and abroad.

No sanctions on Zimbabwe

With a bit of the bully in their heads from playing the loyal junior thug in U.S. imperialism’s war adventures around the world, the British rulers are spearheading a campaign to impose economic sanctions against Zimbabwe in the run-up to elections scheduled for March.

The British government’s justification for this violation of Zimbabwe’s national sovereignty is its professed concern about democratic elections in the country. London says that if the government of Robert Mugabe doesn’t allow election observers in the country or agree to a list of other demands, it will start turning the screws. Buoyed by U.S. president George Bush’s war talk against north Korea, Iran, and Iraq, the British rulers are looking for a piece of the action in order to claw their way up the imperialist pecking order.

Imperialist governments, led by Britain, have been scandalizing the Mugabe government as part of a concerted campaign to get him to leave office after nearly two decades in power. To justify their intervention, they point most often to a series of orchestrated occupations of capitalist farms by supporters of the regime, and to repression of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change.

The people of Zimbabwe waged a decades-long struggle against British colonial rule. The movement against the racist white-minority regime of what was then Rhodesia, which remained an outpost of Britain despite a formal declaration of “independence” in 1965, won wide support among African working people.

Facing defeat at the hands of the rebel forces led by Mugabe and others, the racist minority government enlisted its masters in the UK to bring maximum pressure to bear in

a negotiated settlement. One key provision demanded by the British imperialists was that the first elected government in what would become independent Zimbabwe could not touch the landed estates. The restriction was aimed at blocking off a deep-going land reform in the country.

Nearly all the arable land was controlled by a small number of capitalist farmers, as it still is today. A 1998 study concluded that a million black families are still settled on barren land after being forced to vacate their original fertile areas by the colonial settlers. Zimbabwe remains locked in bondage to the imperialist powers with a foreign debt of more than \$4 billion. The mines and factories in the country are at the mercy of the capitalist market, as are Zimbabwe’s agricultural exports.

Mugabe’s government has been losing support among working people in the country, especially those in urban areas, as the economic crisis deepens. The bureaucratically organized land occupations—which often victimize the peasants who are working the land, casting them as supporters of the white farmers—have nothing to do with a true land reform. They only deal blows to an alliance between workers and peasants and open the door to imperialist intervention.

But the struggles of working people in Zimbabwe will never be advanced by such outside intervention. The British rulers’ supposed concerns should not be given an ounce of credence. Instead, working people around the world can defend national sovereignty and stand on the side of the masses in Zimbabwe by opposing the imperialists’ sanctions plan and calling for the cancellation of the country’s foreign debt.

Argentina pressed by imperialists

Continued from Page 2

a union formation. The CTA is the smallest of the country’s three labor federations.

The demonstrators demanded that the Duhalde government fulfill its promise to create 1 million jobs, establish unemployment insurance for all the jobless, and pass a budget that is not “balanced against the people.” Other workers as well as merchants lined the streets of the capital to greet the marchers as they headed to the presidential house.

Three days earlier, some 20,000 people held a cacerolazo in Buenos Aires to demand relief from the economic crisis. Organized by a collection of largely middle-class neighborhood groups, as well as small businessmen and farmers, the pot-banging protesters’ main slogan was “Out with all of them!” Angry at the impact of the devaluation and the restrictions on bank withdrawals, they condemned the corruption of “all” politicians as the source of the problem.

“We can’t solve all of the country’s problems in three weeks,” said Duhalde in a radio address just hours after the cops fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the demonstrators and left 13 people injured. Duhalde inaugurated the radio program, called “Talking with the President,” in order “to create the perception that the President keeps himself close to the people,” according to a report by the U.S. investment firm Goldman Sachs.

Duhalde appealed to the jobless workers and pot-bangers to “help me, because we think alike.” He promised to carry through on his jobs promise, which consists of offering short-term, minimum-wage make-work “jobs” such as raking leaves.

The president also met with a delegation from the dissident wing of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), headed by Hugo Moyano, which asked him to meet the unions’ demands for jobs and the repeal of antilabor legislation. Moyano, a Peronist, told Duhalde, “We’re with you.” The unionists, however, left the meeting with few commitments from the president.

In Neuquén, 10,000 unionists and their supporters marched January 24 to demand the release of four union officials who had been locked up since January 11 on frame-up charges of assaulting the head of the provincial Social Security Institute. Three of them were released the following day. The four face charges of up to 10 years in prison.

Response to letters on Kashmir and WIC

BY JACK WILLEY

On the letters page, Annalucia Vermunt raises concerns about a sentence in the article, “Pakistan arrests 2,000 under U.S. pressure,” in *Militant* issue no. 4, which states: “Over the past 12 years, Muslim forces have waged a guerrilla war against Indian security forces in Kashmir, taking the lives of more than 35,000 people, according to Indian government estimates.”

We thank her for the observation, since the sentence reads as if forces in the Kashmir killed 35,000 people, rather than that being the figure for deaths inflicted by both sides in the conflict.

There are numerous political groups in Kashmir spanning a wide spectrum of views. Some have focused their demands on the Indian government to implement the long-denied referendum of the overwhelmingly Muslim Kashmiri people to decide whether they want to join Pakistan instead of being forcibly united with India. Others are directly backed by Pakistan’s military government. These often wrap themselves in Muslim religious garb to justify communalist assaults on people who are Hindu and those they accuse of spying for Indian intelligence. This only plays into the hands of Hindu communalists who, with the tacit support of the Indian regime, carry out similar attacks on Muslims.

The *Militant* has used several terms to describe the various groups in Kashmir, including “Muslim.” Use of the word “Muslim” does not in and of itself mean a group is reactionary or progressive. The Indian rulers have treated Kashmiris as second-class citizens, giving fuel to Hindu communalists based on the fact that the people of Kashmir are Muslim. As a result, many groups consider their Muslim identity to be a source of pride.

What is WIC?

Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC, is a government program for people the government considers “low-income” and nutritionally at risk. It provides counseling and certain foods to pregnant women and mothers with infants up to one year old. It also serves children up to their fifth birthday.

The government uses other programs such as Food Stamps, which gives low-income families a quota of food coupons each month to purchase food at grocery stores. Somebody who is unemployed can be cut off from the program if a government official decides that person is not trying hard enough to find work.

All these programs are designed to circumvent the government paying out cash relief at a livable income, but instead to try to degrade and demoralize people who find themselves in financial straits.

Malcolm X speaks on American nightmare

Printed below is an excerpt from *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. The item quoted comes from the chapter titled "I'm not an American, I'm a victim of Americanism," a speech given by Malcolm X at the University of Ghana, May 13, 1964. Copyright © 1965 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

BY MALCOLM X

I intend for my talk to be very informal, because our position in America is an informal position, [Laughter] and I find that it is very difficult to use formal terms to describe a very informal position. No condition of any people on earth is more deplorable than the condition, or plight, of the twenty-two million Black people in America. And our condition is so deplorable because we are

choice. [Applause] If I were an American there would be no problem, there'd be no need for legislation or civil rights or anything else. So I just try to face the fact as it actually is and come to this meeting as one of the victims of America, one of the victims of Americanism, one of the victims of democracy, one of the victims of a very hypocritical system that is going all over this earth today representing itself as being qualified to tell other people how to run their country when they can't get the dirty things that are going on in their own country straightened out. [Applause]

So if someone else from America comes to you to speak, they're probably speaking as Americans, and they speak as people who see America through the eyes of an American. And usually those types of persons refer to America, or that which exists in America, as the American Dream. But for the twenty million of us in America who are of African descent, it is not an American dream; it's an American nightmare. [Laughter]

I don't feel that I am a visitor in Ghana or in any part of Africa. I feel that I am at home. I've been away for four hundred years, [Laughter] but not of my own volition, not of my own will. Our people didn't go to America on the *Queen Mary*, we didn't go by Pan American, and we didn't go to America on the *Mayflower*. We went in slave ships, we went in chains. We weren't immigrants to America, we were cargo for purposes of a system that was bent upon making a profit. So this is the category or level of which I speak. I may not speak it in the language many of you would use, but I think you will understand the meaning of my terms.

When I was in Ibadan [in Nigeria] at the University of Ibadan last Friday night, the students there gave me a new name, which I go for—meaning I like it. [Laughter] "Omwale," which they say means in Yoruba—if I am pronouncing that correctly, and if I am not pronouncing it correctly it's because I haven't had a chance to pronounce it for four hundred years [Laughter]—which means in that dialect, "The child has returned." It was an honor for me to be re-



Malcolm X speaks to young civil rights fighters in Alabama, Feb. 4, 1965, during struggle over the right to register to vote. The speech appears in *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

ferred to as a child who had sense enough to return to the land of his forefathers—to his fatherland and to his motherland. Not sent back here by the State Department, [Laughter] but come back here of my own free will. [Applause]

I am happy and I imagine, since it is the policy that whenever a Black man leaves America and travels in any part of Africa, or Asia, or Latin America and says things contrary to what the American propaganda machine turns out, usually he finds upon his return home that his passport is lifted.¹ Well, if they had not wanted me to say the things I am saying, they should never have given me a passport in the first place. The policy usually is the lifting of the passport. Now I am not here to condemn America, I am not here to make America look bad, but I am here to tell you the truth about the situation that Black people in America find themselves confronted with. And if truth condemns America, then she stands condemned. [Applause]

This is the most beautiful continent that I've ever seen; it's the richest continent I've ever seen, and strange as it may seem, I find many white Americans here smiling in the faces of our African brothers like they have been loving them all of the time. [Laughter and applause] The fact is, these same whites who in America spit in our faces, the same whites who in America club us brutally, the same whites who in America sic their dogs upon us, just because we want to be free human beings, the same whites who turn their water hoses upon our women and our babies because we want to integrate with them, are over here in Africa smiling in your face trying to integrate with you. [Laughter]

I had to write a letter back home yester-

day and tell some of my friends that if American Negroes want integration, they should come to Africa, because more white people over here—white Americans, that is—look like they are for integration than there is in the entire American country. [Laughter] But actually what it is, they want to integrate with the wealth that they know is here—the untapped natural resources which exceed the wealth of any continent on this earth today.

When I was coming from Lagos to Accra Sunday, I was riding on an airplane with a white man who represented some of the interests, you know, that are interested in Africa. And he admitted—at least it was his impression—that our people in Africa didn't know how to measure wealth, that they worship wealth in terms of gold and silver, not in terms of the natural resources that are in the earth, and that as long as the Americans or other imperialists or twentieth-century colonialists could continue to make the Africans measure wealth in terms of gold and silver, they never would have an opportunity to really measure the value of the wealth that is in the soil, and would continue to think that it is *they* who need the Western powers instead of thinking that it is the Western powers who need the people and the continent that is known as Africa.

¹Angola was then a colony of Portugal; it won its independence in 1975.

The most well-known victim of this practice was the singer Paul Robeson. Another important case was that of Black journalist William Worthy, who had to fight a two-year legal battle to overturn a 1962 conviction for visiting Cuba after he had been denied a passport.

imperialist division of the country.

Partition has been a deadly tool to divide working people of the region. The only basis for such struggle is through defending the people of Kashmir's right to self determination. The quote attributed to Indian government sources without any qualifications attached doesn't accurately reflect the political conditions there, and the role New Delhi has played in oppressing the people of the region.

I also have a question: is the characterization of the forces responsible for the guerrilla war as "Muslim" forces rather than pro-Pakistan, or Kashmiri, deliberate? It suggests something of a guerrilla war based on religion rather than nationality—more like the character of al Qaeda, recruiting from across the Muslim world.

Annalucia Vermunt
Christchurch, New Zealand

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

in a country that professes to be a democracy and professes to be striving to give justice and freedom and equality to everyone who is born under its constitution. If we were born in South Africa or in Angola or some part of this earth where they don't profess to be for freedom,¹ that would be another thing; but when we are born in a country that stands up and represents itself as the leader of the Free World, and you still have to beg and crawl just to get a chance to drink a cup of coffee, then the condition is very deplorable indeed.

'A victim of Americanism'

So tonight, so that you will understand me and why I speak as I do, it should probably be pointed out at the outset that I am not a politician. I don't know anything about politics. I'm from America but I'm not an American. I didn't go there of my own free

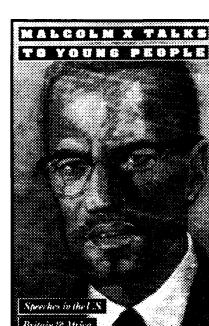
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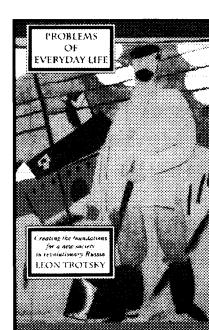


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LETTERS

WIC program?

In the January 21 *Militant* there is a mention of Bush's proposal for "budget cuts that would deny 200,000 women and children WIC food supplement programs." The article is by Carmen James. What are WIC food supplement programs? Are there other such schemes, and how widespread are they? *Pierre Kraus*
by e-mail

India's role in Kashmir

In the article, "Pakistan arrests 2,000 under U.S. pressure," published in the January 28 issue, Maurice Williams writes: "Over the past 12 years, Muslim forces have waged a guerrilla war against Indian security forces in Kashmir, taking the lives of more than 35,000 people, according to Indian government estimates."

This quote seems to absolve the Indian government of responsibility. New Delhi has carried out a brutal military occupation of Kashmir which has seen many people die. I agree that the anti-imperialist struggle on the Indian subcontinent can be the motor force for the unification of India as a nation-state, completing the national democratic revolution, brutally interrupted by the

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Workers protest job cuts in Canada

BY GABRIEL CHARBIN
AND JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Teachers, health-care and public-sector workers, and students are organizing a series of protests against sweeping job cuts and other assaults against working people being carried out by the British Columbia provincial government.

On January 17 the government said it will eliminate 11,700 government jobs over three years, about one-third of all positions in the provincial civil service, making it the largest such layoff of government employees in Canadian history.

The Transportation Ministry will be the hardest hit, with 61 percent of all jobs on the chopping block. Among the country's provinces, British Columbia (B.C.) already has the second lowest ratio of government workers to the population.

The Liberals, the governing party in the province and nationally, says it plans to freeze health and education spending for three years. The government is also targeting recipients of welfare. Single mothers who are currently expected to start looking for work when their youngest child reaches age seven will now be forced to find a job when the child turns three. People the welfare agency deem "employable" are to be limited to receiving welfare two years out of five. Another proposal is to eliminate a subsidy for pensioners with low incomes.

In preparation for their assault on the teachers union, the government adopted a law last August making education an essential service. This effectively eliminated the teachers' right to strike. Two months later the province's 45,000 teachers began limited job actions to press their contract demands, but the government imposed a contract in late January.

Included in the attacks on the teachers union and education as a whole are provi-



About 150 high school students rallied January 23 outside the Vancouver school board offices as thousands of students walked out of school to support teachers' contract demands. The teachers held a one-day strike January 28 throughout province of British Columbia.

sions to remove class size limits from the collective agreement between the teachers and the school boards. Instead, class size decisions will be placed under the B.C. School Act. A cap of 30 on class sizes for grades 4–12 was changed into a district-wide average, allowing some classes to be smaller and others larger than 30. Contract restrictions on how many special-needs children can be in a classroom were also eliminated, as were ratios that force employers to hire a certain number of librarians, English-as-a-second-language teachers, counselors, and special-education specialists based on the number of students in a school.

The government also tore up agreements

with the health-care workers unions. New legislation either eliminates or rolls back the ability of the unions to have a say over severance pay and layoff and seniority job bumping rights. It also opens the door for private companies to provide health care, a move the unions see as threatening the 50,000 workers employed in the state system.

A growing mobilization

These wide-ranging attacks have sparked a number of mobilizations. Teachers carried out a province-wide walkout January 28 to protest the government's action in imposing a contract. In Vancouver some 10,000

teachers rallied and many other actions were held throughout British Columbia. Among those addressing the Vancouver rally were representatives of the B.C. Federation of Labor, the B.C. Government Employees Union, and the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Teachers at the Vancouver rally were eager to fight back. Chris Stemo, a teacher in Burnaby, a Vancouver suburb, told the *Militant*, "Everyone here is angry. There is a feeling of being duped by the government. Everything we've done has been in support of students."

Teacher Genevieve Kidd added, "I'm appalled. I never thought highly of the Liberals before this but I never thought they could dream of doing this. They took democracy and laughed in its face."

Elementary school teacher Sylvia Helmer told the rally that she was there "to talk about special support students. The cuts will hurt them." Of the 29 students in her class, 14 speak English as a second language and four need special assistance.

Thousands of high school students throughout British Columbia walked out of classes January 23 to support the teachers. Hundreds gathered at several rally points in the Vancouver area. Students from Moscrop Secondary School in Burnaby carried signs reading, "Save education for our generation," and "Support the teachers, support education or you'll see Gordo's decimation." Gordo is the nickname for B.C. premier Gordon Campbell.

Protest leader Shannon MacAnn said, "Education means learning but right now we're not learning anything. We have to fight against classes having 45 students." Jeff Grant, a student at Moscrop Secondary School, added, "I want to show that our teachers are important and deserve to be negotiated with."

At the same time, cuts to health care, including hospital and ward closures, have been met with several protests. In Delta, a small town south of Vancouver, a rally organized on short notice January 18 drew about 1,000 people to condemn the closure of the emergency ward of the Delta Hospital.

On January 25, 1,500 health-care workers, many organized by the Hospital Employees Union, rallied in downtown Vancouver in front of a meeting of premiers from every province in Canada. The meeting, devoted entirely to health care, featured proposals by premiers from British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario to open up health care to private companies.

Gabriel Charbin is a meat packer and a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 2000.

Brewery workers fight lockout at Labatt

BY PATRICIA O'BEIRNE

LONDON, Ontario—More than 300 unionized workers here have been walking the picket line after being locked out January 8 by Labatt Breweries of Canada. The workers were locked out after a near unanimous vote rejecting the company's contract offer.

The same day workers at the Labatt brewery in Toronto ratified a contract, with 93 percent in favor.

"We're not asking for money, just ethical treatment," millwright Bill Cathcart said on the picket line here. "We're prepared to sit this out until summer. The company has been stockpiling in Quebec and in the States, we know that. This could easily be a three-month lockout."

Workers say they rejected the company's offer because of numerous concessions demanded by the company. The proposed pact failed to address the union's two top concerns—outsourcing of work by the company and the bosses' attempt to keep 80 workers out of the union who work part-time, and earn only \$12 an hour with no benefits. In addition to the part-time workers, there are about 300 unionized members at the London plant.

The workers are members of Local 1 of the Brewery General and Professional Workers' Union (BGPWU).

The company's offer included an 18 percent salary increase over six years, a \$2,000 signing bonus, and a pension upgrade. The union wants the company to create more full-time jobs with the same pay and benefits as the rest of the plant, where the average union wage is \$26.75 an hour.

"We're all getting older and we're all going to retire but there's no one to replace us," said Julius Halsma, who has worked at Labatt for 30 years. "Let some of the part-time workers join the union and get benefits."

Picket captain Guy Harrington told the press that "money was never an issue. The problem is the abuse the temps take in the plant."

One worker on the picket line described how a part-time worker was ill but felt he couldn't take off work because he isn't in the union. Harrington said that one worker in the plant has been part-time for 18 years. "These people have families, they have mortgages, and there's no reason they can't be in the union," he said.

Bob Chant, Labatt Breweries Ontario's public relations director, said the company

has been preparing for the lockout for several months and they are "resolved to fully supply the marketplace." Labatt's seven other Canadian breweries are still operating, he added.

Workers on the picket line described the solidarity they have been getting for their fight—from the many drivers honking their car horns in support, to a rally with donated chili last week where workers from several unions, including the Canadian Auto Workers, Steelworkers, Ontario Public Service Employees Union, and carpenters and engineering unions came by the picket line.

EU threatens sanctions against Zimbabwe

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a move aimed at ratcheting up their drive against the government of Zimbabwe, European Union foreign ministers meeting on January 28 in Brussels, Belgium, announced that they would impose sanctions upon the southern African country if EU election observers were not permitted entry to it by February 3.

Presidential elections are scheduled to occur March 9–10, and the imperialist rulers in Europe, led by London, are hoping to ease out of office President Robert Mugabe, the leading figure in the government of Zimbabwe since the country won independence from Britain in 1980.

The sanctions under consideration would freeze assets held by Mugabe and others in his government held in Europe and impose a visa ban on them traveling anywhere on the continent.

According to a CNN report, the sanctions would also be imposed if the Mugabe government "prevents the international media from reporting the elections, if the human rights situation gets any worse—and they

can be imposed later if the election is assessed as not being free and fair."

Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, is backing the EU government's plans to slap sanctions on Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, London is pressing for the removal of Zimbabwe from the 54-nation Commonwealth, composed primarily of former British colonies.

These moves come in the context of a deepening economic crisis facing working people in Zimbabwe and a legacy of backwardness imposed by a near-century of British colonial rule, and by imperialist exploitation and debt bondage. Today the country's foreign debt stands at \$4 billion, while 60 percent of the population of 12.5 million is living below the government-declared poverty line, more than 50 percent are unemployed, 25 percent of the adult population are infected with HIV/AIDS, and life expectancy at birth is just 37.1 years.

The land question remains at the heart of the crisis in Zimbabwe. There are more than 6 million landless peasants and about 4,500

mainly white capitalist farmers who dominate agricultural production and own as much as 80 percent of the arable land.

Over the past couple of years Mugabe has organized a bureaucratic campaign of "land seizures." These actions have had nothing to do with carrying out a much-needed radical agrarian reform to advance the struggle of the workers and peasants of the country. Rather, they are carried out solely to benefit government officials and supporters of the ruling party—the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front. Nonetheless, these actions have brought the ire of London and Washington on the Mugabe regime, along with moves toward greater imperialist intervention into the country aimed at ending his rule.

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